

A Wetmore - Route map October - November, 1940
Guanacaste

CENTRAL AMERICA
NICARAGUA-COSTA RICA

--- by plane
— by land

LIBERIA

PROV. C-16-N-VI

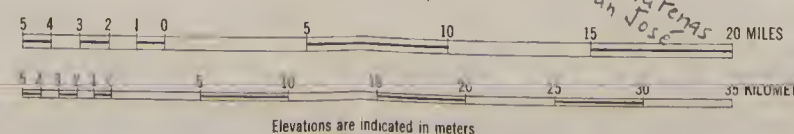


GEOGRAPHIC BRANCH, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, (G-2) GENERAL STAFF, U. S. A., 1929. MAP NO. 107 C-16-N-VI

LEGEND

- Capital of Country
- Capital of Province
- Cities
- Town
- Village
- Settlement
- Ranch
- Wireless Station with call letters
- Peak
- Mine
- Roads, Passable for light Autos
- Roads, National or Main Highway
- Roads, Poor Wagon or Trail
- LIBERIA
- S. RAMON
- PALMARES
- Las Cruces
- Venado
- C. S. Jose
- SAN RAFAEL
- R. R. Broad Gauge 5'6" 5'3"
- R. R. Standard Gauge 4'3"
- R. R. Gauges of 4'9" 4'7" 4'6" 4'5" 4'4" 4'3"
- R. R. Gauges of 3'6"
- R. R. Narrow Gauge less than 1 Meter
- International Boundary
- Province Boundary
- Department or Canton Boundary
- Telegraph Line
- Telegraph and Telephone

Scale 1:250,000



ENGINEER REPRODUCTION PLANT U. S. ARMY WASHINGTON D. C. 2492

SHEET INDEX

JINOTEPE C-16-N-II	GRANADA C-16-N-III	MONKEY POINT C-17-N-I
	LIBERIA C-16-N-VI	PUERTO LIMON C-17-N-IV
SAN JOSE C-16-S-III		CARTAGO C-17-S-I

Compiled and drawn by Arch. B. Williams Cartographic Engineer, February, 1928.
Under the direction of Lt. Col. John C. Pegram, Chief of Geographic Section.
Published October, 1929
Under the direction of Lt. Col. J. P. Terrell, Chief of Geographic Branch.

Note: This map is a compilation from various sources.
Users of this map are requested to mark thereon any corrections or additions which come to their attention and mail direct to Assistant Chief of Staff (G-2) War Department, Washington, D. C. The authorities for such revisions should be cited. The War Department will replace maps forwarded with corrections should the map user indicate that replacement is desired.

G. W. Moore
Route map Guanacaste, Costa Rica
October-November, 1911

Great White Fleet



Guest Cruise Passenger List

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY

**TOURIST GUIDE AND
SIGHTSEEING BOOKLET**

GARAGE

COSTA RICA



**SAN JOSE , COSTA RICA, C.A.
PHONES : 4990 & 4991
AUTOMOBILE SERVICE DAY & NIGHT
COLLECTIVE TOURS EVERY DAY**



The COSTA RICA GARAGE with 10 years experience in touring the country, has specially selected the trips recommended in this booklet with the object of permitting the visitor to enjoy the scenic beauties of Costa Rica with a minimum of trouble and a maximum of comfort.

The prices quoted are in each case for the ROUND-TRIP with reasonable WAITING PERIODS for the passenger to wander around any places of special interest.

With the help of our maps (attached at the end) and this booklet you will be able to choose the trips in which you are most interested.

For the visitor's satisfaction we should like to mention that the COSTA RICA GARAGE has handled for many years all the tourist traffic of the following steamship-lines:

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY (Great White Fleet)

THE ROYAL NETHERLANDS LINE

THE HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE

THE HOLLAND AMERICA LINE

THE EAST ASIATIC LINE

and many other tourists who have travelled by PAN-AMERICAN AIRWAYS or other Airplane lines.

The COSTA RICA GARAGE hopes that this booklet will contribute to the enjoyment of your stay in Costa Rica.

The advertisements at the end of every page for "Notes" and on the two maps are marked alphabetically. The respective letters are reproduced on the city-plan, indicating the exact location of the different advertisers.

Organized Collective Tours

In order to assist individual tourists the

COSTA RICA GARAGE

organizes daily collective tours.

Starting point: TOURIST BOARD OFFICES

For complete information inquire at your hotel desk or phone:

National Tourist Board 3598

Costa Rica Garage 4990, 4991

Express Service of the Costa Rica Garage

Handling and moving of all baggage at fixed charges in accordance with the official tariff of the National Tourist Board.

BAGGAGE RATES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

Large steamer trunk	\$ 0.40
Small steamer trunk	0.20
Large grip or large canvas bag	0.20
Small grip or small canvas bag	0.10
Large baskets	0.10
Small bundles or brief-case	0.05

Minimum total charge \$ 0.50

All prices are in U. S. Currency

For all services call Phones **4990** or **4991**

This Booklet distributed GRATIS by the

COSTA RICA GARAGE

First edition: Jan. 1940

Points of Interest in the Capital

The following places of interest are best visited in numerical order as listed below:

1.—NATIONAL THEATRE: Opposite the Gran Hotel Costa Rica. An architectural jewel modelled after the Paris Opera House.

2.—NATIONAL MUSEUM: Houses archeological treasures of the precolombian era. Admission free.

3.—ORCHID GARDEN: (Privately owned). Buy your bouquets and corsages here.

4.—NATIONAL SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE: Government experimental station for stimulating agricultural methods.

5.—NATIONAL PARK: Here is located the massive bronze monument depicting the expulsion of the American filibuster William Walker from Central America.

6.—NATIONAL LIQUOR FACTORY: Visitors are welcome to sample the exotic and exquisite fruit-wines and liqueurs.

7.—BOLIVAR PARK: Contains a small but interesting zoo, with native fauna.

8.—MORAZAN PARK: Band Concerts by the Military Band on Monday and Friday evenings 8-9 P. M.

9.—POST OFFICE: The most imposing Post-Office Building in Central America.

10.—UNION CLUB: San Jose's chief social club, opposite Post Office.

11.—NATIONAL CONGRESS: When in session meets daily at 3 P. M. Admission to the public galleries is unrestricted.

12.—MARKET: Here are to be found all the tropical and sub-tropical fruits for which Costa Rica is famous. Interesting specimens of native handicraft are also obtainable.

13.—SABANA: (Passing beautiful Paseo Colon, Hospital and Insane Asylum). New international airport and headquarters of local airlines.

14.—NATIONAL STADIUM: Located at the end of Sabana, with a capacity of 5000 persons. Here all the international matches are fought.

15.—CEMETERY: Beautiful marble sculptures and tombs of many famous citizens.

16.—CENTRAL PARK: Here is drawn the national lottery on Sundays. Bandconcerts on Wenesdays 8-9, Sundays 5 P. M. Best movie-picture-houses are located at Central Park.

17.—CATHEDRAL: Principal temple of Roman Catholic faith. Military Band attends 8 o'clock mass on Sundays.



ROUTE No 1.—San Jose to: Heredia = Alajuela = Cacao
Grecia = Naranjo = San Ramon.

SAN JOSE TO HEREDIA: Distance 10 Km. Capital of province of the same name. Old churches from colonial days. Important coffee region. Trip requires 1 hour. Price \$1.00.

SAN JOSE TO ALAJUELA: Distance 22 Km. Capital of province of the same name. Famous for its flowers. Beautiful Central Park. Weekly cattle fair and gathering place for oxen carts on market days. Historically famous for Costa Rica's hero JUAN SANTA MARIA who forced filibuster William Walker to capitulation 1856. Statue in one of Alajuela's many parks. Trip requires 2 hours. Price \$2.25.

SAN JOSE TO CACAO: Distance 36 Km. Centre of sugar region. Large pineapple plantations. Passing vast pastures and coffee estates. Trip requires 3 hours. Price \$3.50.

SAN JOSE TO GRECIA: Distance 41 Km. Beautiful changing scenery. Deep valleys and wild torrents. Visit "Trapiche", a native sugarmill. Watch cane being converted into brown sugar. Motive power of these mills, usually waterwheel or a team of oxen. Trip requires 4 hours. Price \$4.50. (Provide for Luncheon basket).

SAN JOSE TO NARANJO: Distance 55 Km. Another rural town further afield than Grecia. Ever changing scenery until you reach this peaceful town. Trip requires 5 hours. Price \$6.00. (Provide for Luncheon basket).

SAN JOSE TO SAN RAMON: Distance 76 Km. End of highway connecting with dirt road to Puntarenas. Beautiful scenery. Passing Palmares, important tobacco centre. Commercial centre of this region. Resort place for some of San Jose's city population. Trip requires 7 hours. Price \$8.00. (Provide for a plentiful Luncheon basket).



ROUTE Nº 2.—San José to: San Pedro & Poas Volcano
via Heredia & Alajuela.

SAN JOSE TO SAN PEDRO POAS: Distance 34 Km. Road passes Heredia and Alajuela. Then turns to right until you reach this little picturesque village in the foothills of Poas Volcano. Trip requires 3 hours. Price \$4.00.

SAN JOSE TO POAS VOLCANO: Distance 61 Km. At San Pedro Poas horses are hired for the trip to the summit of Poas. Poas Volcano and crater lake are best visited at sunrise. In the latter part of the day clouds may make view impossible. Trip starts 1 A. M. from San Jose and visitors may be back by noon. Poas Volcano is world's largest geyser. 8700 feet high. Trip is not strenuous. Horses go very slowly. Climb on horseback approximately 3 hours. Warm clothes are needed for the trip. Raincoats may come in handy. This trip should be arranged preferably one day ahead. Trip requires 10-11 hours. Price: Automobile \$8.00. Horses \$1.50 each. Guide and horse \$2.75

NOTE: There are two ways to reach Poas Volcano and crater lake. Nº 1 as described above. Nº 2, see ROUTE Nº 3. Round-trip via Barba.



ROUTE Nº 3.—San Jose to: Barba & Vara Blanca & Poas
Volcano & via Heredia.

SAN JOSE TO BARBA: Distance 13 Km. Passing Heredia. Barba is birthplace of late Señor Cleto Gonzalez Viquez, twice President of Costa Rica. Very peaceful and typical Costa Rican village. Trip requires 1-1/2 hours. Price \$2.00.

SAN JOSE TO VARA BLANCA: Distance 50 Km. Beautiful scenery and many fine views of the Central Plateau. Road climbs up to an elevation of 1606 meters, passing on the way mountain resort of U. S. Minister to Costa Rica and President Cortes's cattle ranch. Trip requires 3-1/2 hours. Price \$6.00.

SAN JOSE TO POAS VOLCANO: Distance 65 Km. via Heredia & Barba & Vara Blanca. Road winds up behind Poas Volcano. Passing fine cattle land. Climate fairly cold. Warm clothes should be provided for. Special arrangements should be made for this trip. NOTE: It is not yet possible to make the trip to the crater via Heredia & Barba & Vara Blanca as it is difficult to arrange for horses, but you may drive to San Pedro Poas and then go up to the crater on horseback as described in ROUTE Nº 2. When returning, proceed on horseback, descending towards Vara Blanca, where your automobile will meet you to take you back to San Jose. For this trip make special arrangement with Costa Rica Garage. Trip requires 12 hours. Price \$10.00 for the car. Horses \$2.00 each. Guide with horse \$3.50.



ROUTE No 4.—San Jose to: Escasu = Santa Ana = Villa Colon = El Rodeo = Panamerican Airport.

SAN JOSE TO ESCASU: Distance 6 Km. Road passes big bridge at Los Anonos. Typical village with colonial atmosphere. Considered the cradle of witchcraft. Note crooked streets paved with cobblestones. Short but very pleasant ride. Trip requires 1 hour. Price \$1.00.

SAN JOSE TO SANTA ANA: Distance 14 Km. Road turns to right just before reaching Escasu. Extensive views of Central Plateau towards Pacific side. On clear days one may see the Pacific ocean. Santa Ana itself, quaint little village. Trip is also worth while by moonlight. Trip requires 1 1/2 hours. Price \$1.50.

SAN JOSE TO VILLA COLON: Distance 20 Km. End of paved road. After leaving Santa Ana note Indian huts on roadside. Trip passes typical Costa Rican countryside. Trip requires 2 hours. Price \$2.25.

SAN JOSE TO EL RODEO: Distance 26 Km. Costa Rica's dude ranch with delights such as: Horseriding, fishing, swimming, hiking and other outdoor sports. The ideal place to rest amid an informal social atmosphere. During dry season car can go right to ranch house, during rainy season proceed on horseback from Villa Colon. Trip requires 3 hours. Price \$3.00. (Horses extra, charged by the ranch). (During rainy season make special arrangements).

SAN JOSE TO PANAMERICAN AIRPORT: Distance 20 Km. Leaving Santa Ana, road turns right. Mostly flat country with rice fields. Trip requires 2 hours. Price \$2.00.



ROUTE No 5.—San Jose to: Guadalupe = San Vicente = San Isidro de Coronado = Las Nubes.

SAN JOSE TO GUADALUPE: Distance 4 Km. Passing rural environs of San Jose. Beautiful "Pilar Jimenez School". Trip requires 1/2 hour. Price \$0.50.

Shortly before reaching Guadalupe, there is located the Pig-Farm of the Gran Hotel Costa Rica, which is well worth a visit. As you drive through the main gate, which is almost opposite the German-Club-House, you pass a beautiful flower garden. Then turning down towards the river "Torres" you will see hundreds of pigs of either pure English and Norwegian stock or crossbreds. Mr. JENSEN, Mr. YORK, and Mr. LORD are the sires of all these pigs, which are bred and kept in the most scientific way and under the most sanitary conditions. On the farm, there are also Chickens, Ducks, Turkeys, Pigeons, etc., etc. Visitors are requested to make arrangements at the desk of the Gran Hotel Costa Rica. Car is best hired by the hour.

SAN JOSE TO SAN VICENTE: Distance 5 Km. Road turns to left after leaving Guadalupe. Another rural town on the outskirts of the capital. Trip requires 3/4 hours. Price \$0.75.

SAN JOSE TO SAN ISIDRO DE CORONADO: Distance 11 Km. Passing Guadalupe on the way. Summer colony for children. Note church in reinforced concrete construction and its size in comparison to small village. Changing and picturesque panorama all the way. Large swimming pool at the end of village. Excellent mountain air. Trip requires 1 1/2 hours. Price \$1.50.

SAN JOSE TO LAS NUBES: Distance 17 Km. Interesting excursion into the mountains. Steep climb begins shortly after San Isidro de Coronado. Dairy district. Very picturesque region with panoramic views of San Jose. Best visited at sunset. Breathe pure mountain air. Trip requires 2 hours. Price \$2.25.



ROUTE Nº 6.—San Jose to: Desamparados • Aserri • La Gloria Ranch.

SAN JOSE TO DESAMPARADOS: Distance 3 Km. Passing coffee plantations immediately after leaving the city. Note the solid construction of parish church. Trip requires 1/2 hour. Price \$0.75.

SAN JOSE TO ASERRI: Distance 9 Km. After Desamparados road begins to climb slightly. Pretty rural scenes. When at Aserri notice "Piedra de Aserri", enormous block of stone, overhanging mountain side. Also note mission crosses on mountains nearby. On return magnificent view of San Jose. Trip requires 1 hour. Price \$1.00.

SAN JOSE TO LA GLORIA RANCH: Distance 10 1/2 Km. Resort in Tablazo mountains. Beautiful views all the way around. You may enjoy excellent hunting, horseriding, and fishing. Well assorted bar and restaurant.

Trip requires 1 hour. Price \$1.25.

LA GLORIA RANCH

An ideal resort place in the Tablazo mountains
BAR AND RESTAURANT SERVICE
Phone "Rural 27"



ROUTE Nº 7.—San Jose to: Ojo de Agua.

SAN JOSE TO OJO DE AGUA: Distance 21 Km. Natural spring, 6000 gallons water per minute. Source of Puntarenas drinking water. Facilities to bathe in the crystal clear water from the overflow. Very charming spot for picnics. Well-assorted bar, restaurant service and dancing. Administered by the Government Pacific Railroad. Excursion is best made as a round-trip. Starting via Heredia to San Antonio de Belen (Railroad stop) and when returning continue on the same road which will take you back to the highway shortly before Alajuela, then proceed back to San Jose. Trip requires 3 hours. Price \$3.00.

OJO DE AGUA RESTAURANT

Open all the year round

COSTA RICAN CUISINE - EXCELLENT BAR SERVICE

"A perfect resort for Picnics"

Julián Pastor, Mgr.



ROUTE Nº 8.—San Jose to: Sabanilla.

SAN JOSE TO SABANILLA: Distance 6 Km. Short but very pleasant drive. Passing coffee plantations on the way. Trip may be made as a round-trip, starting shortly before reaching San Pedro and returning to main road at Fuentes. Trip requires 1 hour. Price \$1.00.

"THE CACTUS EATERS"

by J. A. WESTON

A thrilling true story of travel and adventure which starts in Costa Rica and takes the reader to Panama, Curacao, Venezuela and Colombia. Illustrated with 40 unique photographs and map.

An unusual travel book . . . *Public Opinion*
 Packed with interesting information and excitement. . . *Scotsman*
 Entertainingly told. A fascinating travel book . . . *London Mercury*

On sale at the Newsstand of the GRAN HOTEL COSTA RICA. Price ₡ 15.00 Costa Rican currency. The author will autograph copies if desired.



ROUTE Nº 9.—San Jose to: Tres Rios = Cartago = Paraiso Orosi = Ujarras.

SAN JOSE TO TRES RIOS: Distance 10 Km. After passing the little suburb of San Pedro one reaches Curridabat, named after an Indian chief. From here on Costa Rica's choicest coffee is grown. Several fine coffee *beneficios* on the way. Shortly before reaching Tres Rios one passes the Herran farm where Rear-Admiral Byrd spent a vacation. Trip requires 1 hour. Price \$1.00.

SAN JOSE TO CARTAGO: Distance 22 Km. After Tres Rios, road begins to climb until Continental Divide. Elevation 1539 meters. At the right on top of Ochomogo hill (named after an Indian god) enormous statue of Christ, in memory of peace between the cities of San Jose and Cartago. After Ochomogo hill, generally called "El Alto", road descends in great curves towards Cartago. Cartago is the sanctuary of Costa Rica's patron Saint, "Nuestra Señora de los Angeles". Visit church of the same name, containing the Saint's shrine. Beautiful Central Park with old church ruins. Cartago, the ancient capital, still traditional with the glory of bygone colonial days. From Cartago you may reach on a dirt road in about 15 minutes the famous hot springs at Agua Caliente. Formerly well visited spa for rheumatic sufferers. Now bathing establishments are in ruins. The Panamerican Highway will pass Cartago. 5 Km. are already constructed. Trip to Cartago requires 2 hours. Price \$2.00. Trip to Agua Caliente requires 3/4 hour with an additional charge of \$1.00.



Route No. 9 - Continued

SAN JOSE TO PARAISO: Distance 31 Km. On the way you will pass International Radio station with offices in the lobby of the Gran Hotel Costa Rica at San Jose. Opposite to Radio station dirt road leads down to Mr. Lancaster's farm. Most famous orchid grower in all Central America. Farm is called "Las Concavas" and is privately owned. Permission for visit should be obtained previously. Following the road to Paraiso, very beautiful view of Irazu Volcano. Before reaching Paraiso note several sisal plantations on road side. Trip requires 2 1/2 hours. Price \$2.50. (Visit to Mr. Lancaster's farm extra, not possible by car during rainy season).

SAN JOSE TO OROSI: Distance 37 Km. After Paraiso road winds down to a valley full of enchantments. Running throughout the length of valley is the famous Reventazon River. Orange and citrus fruit plantations mixed with coffee and bananas all the way. At the end is the peaceful village of Orosi. First Spanish mission founded here 300 years ago. The old mission church is still intact as the Spaniards left it. Church houses fine old paintings, excellent carvings of altars and pillars, silver and golden religious, handworked mass implements and beautiful religious garments of bygone days in a good state of preservation. Trip requires 4 hours. Price \$4.50. (Provide for Luncheon basket).



Route No. 9 - Continued

SAN JOSE TO UJARRAS: From Orosi you may either visit on foot or on horseback the ruins of Ujarras. Spanish mission dating back to 1575. Very picturesque all the way. After Ujarras ruins you may climb up to mighty cataract of Orosi. Beautiful waterfall 300 feet high. These trips should be arranged for specially. NOTE: When at Orosi, sulphur hot springs may easily be reached on foot.

ROUTE No 10.—San Jose to: Sanatorio Duran = Robert's Farm = End of New Road Irazu Volcano.

SAN JOSE TO SANATORIO DURAN: Distance 38 Km. Trip passes San Pedro, Curridabat, Tres Rios, Cartago, until church of Los Angeles, then turn to north. Passing little village of San Rafael with malting plant and barley fields. Shortly before village of Cot turn to left. Road winds upwards very steeply with most beautiful panoramic view until reaching Sanatorio Duran. Health resort and sanatorium. Elevation 2310 meters. Trip requires 3 hours. Price \$3.75.



Route No. 10 - Continued

SAN JOSE TO ROBERT'S DAIRY FARM: Distance 45 Km. At Sanatorio Duran follow highway upwards. Shortly you will reach a modern and well equipped dairy farm on mountain side. Note several mission crosses on mountains nearby. At Robert's farm restaurant and bar-service are available. Warm clothes are recommended for this trip. Trip requires 3 1/2 hours. Price \$4.50.

SAN JOSE TO THE END OF THE NEW ROAD: Distance 49 Km. After Robert's farm highway continues. Note steep and sharp curves of road until end. Trip requires 4 hours. Price \$5.00.

SAN JOSE TO IRAZU VOLCANO: Distance 55 Km. Trip by car as far as Robert's farm. Here excursion continues on horseback for about 2 hours to the crater at the summit. On clear days see both oceans. Irazu Volcano, generally in action, is best visited at sunrise, as in the latter part of the day it may be covered with clouds. Trip starts 2 A. M. from San Jose and visitors may be back by 10 A. M. Trip is praised as one of finest in the world. Total elevation 11,322 feet above sea level. The trip is not strenuous. Horses walk very slowly, very easy riding. Warm clothes are essential. Trip requires 8 hours. Price \$8.00 for the automobile. Horses \$1.25 each. Guide with horse \$1.25.

Points of Interest in the Capital

NOTES

Clausen's Orchid Garden

LA MILFLOR

Orchid Avenue

Beautiful bouquets and corsages

ORCHIDS - GARDENIAS - CAMELIAS

Telephone 2019 - P. O. Box 74

ROUTE Nº 1.—San Jose to: Heredia • Alajuela • Cacao
Grecia • Naranjo • San Ramon.

NOTES

OPTICIAN RIVERA

(Opposite Gran Hotel Costa Rica)

For your trips do not forget your goggles. They will protect you against sun, wind and glare.

SCIENTIFIC EYE EXAMINATIONS

EYE-GLASSES - EYE GLASSES REPAIRED

ALL OPTICAL SUPPLIES

Large stock of native souvenirs in wood and silver

A

Telephone 3347 - P. O. Box 349

ROUTE Nº 2.—San Jose to: San Pedro • Poas Volcano
via Heredia • Alajuela.

NOTES

Warm clothes - riding outfit, etc., are required for your volcano trips.

We always carry a large stock of:

READY MADE CLOTHES

DRY GOODS - SPORT ARTICLES - BREECHES

SHOES - LEGGINGS - RAINCOATS - OVERCOATS

FIRE-ARMS

Complete touring and camping outfits

ALMACEN ROBERT

N

Telephone 2081 - P. O. Box 196

ROUTE N^o 3.—San Jose to: Barba = Vara Blanca = Poas
Volcano = via Heredia.

NOTES

Well made and well fitted boots make your trips
on horse-back more enjoyable.

We also have a permanent stock of the latest styles
in shoe wear for ladies and gentlemen.

Large assortment of gent's underwear, shirts and
many other novelties.

LA RENACIENTE

C

P. O. Box 963 - Cables: CERSOSIMO

ROUTE N^o 4.—San Jose to: Escasu = Santa Ana = Villa
Colon = El Rodeo = Panamerican Airport.

NOTES

EL RODEO

is a 10,000 acres ranch about 18 miles from San Jose,
where tourists can enjoy varied and exhilarating coun-
try attractions with all desirable comforts. Horseback
riding through valleys, woods and mountains. River-
bathing and Fishing. Wonderful Views. Restful Lands-
capes. Comfortable rooms. Hot and cold water baths.
Abundant and nourishing meals. Bar. Electric light. Radio.
Do not leave Costa Rica without visiting the wonderful
tourist Ranch EL RODEO. Ask for special booklet.

CRUZ ROJAS BENNETT, Mgr.

P. O. Box 508 - SAN JOSE - Phone 2818

ROUTE N^o 5.—San Jose to: Guadalupe • San Vicente • San Isidro de Coronado • Las Nubes.

NOTES



The delicious jellies and fruit-preserves which are served at your breakfast table in most hotels of Costa Rica are manufactured by the

FABRICA DEL TROPICO

Guadalupe

Take some home with you - They will bring back pleasant remembrances and delight your folks and friends back home.

Sold at all the first class groceries.

ROUTE N^o 6.—San Jose to: Desamparados • Aserri • La Gloria Ranch.

NOTES

When you tour the country you will often change from cold to warm climate and it is possible that you need a lighter or a warmer suit of clothes. The

SASTRERIA BRENES

offers you

HIGH CLASS TAILORING

with

CLOTH DIRECTLY IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND

E

Phone 2980

ROUTE N° 7.—San Jose to: Ojo de Agua.

NOTES

The only inconvenience that may result after you have enjoyed the most delicious swim in the crystal water of the Ojo de Agua pool, will be that your hair is in disorder.

SALON FEMINA

the most up-to-date

BEAUTY PARLOR

will be glad to serve you immediately

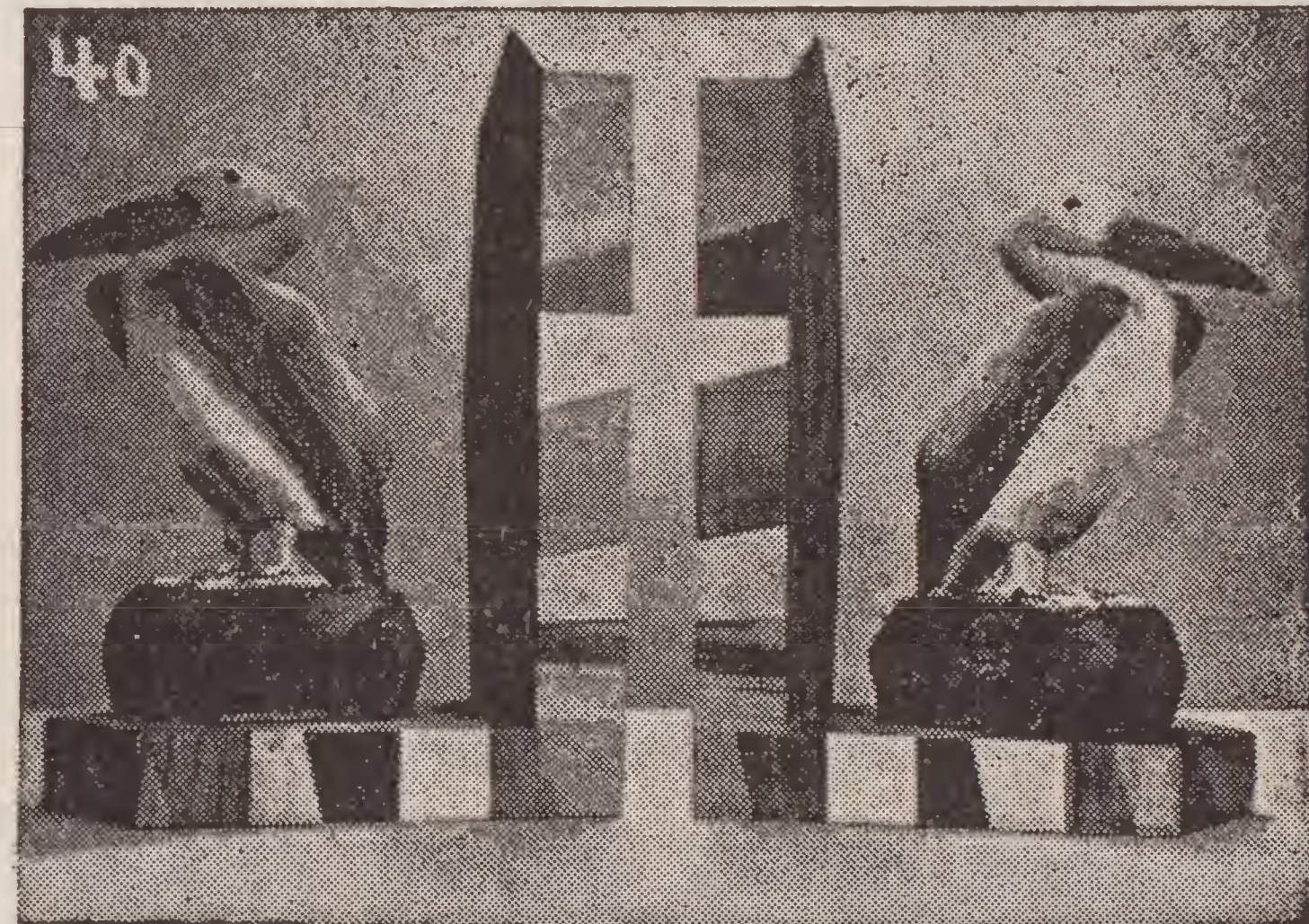
Permanents - Finger Waves - Manicures

Phone 4056

D

ROUTE N° 8.—San Jose to: Sabanilla.

NOTES



To-day is time for shopping

J. E. VALVERDE & HIJOS, SUCS.

are manufacturers of the most artistic souvenirs
of Costa Rican hard-woods.

Phone 4052

O

ROUTE N^o 9.—San Jose to: Tres Rios ≠ Cartago ≠ Paraiso
Orosi ≠ Ujarras.

NOTES

You have spent some time in Costa Rica
now and one or the other of your toilet
articles needs replacing

The PALACE DRUG STORE

offers you a great variety of toilet articles.

PATENT MEDICINES - VACCINES
AND PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED

Phone 3366

J

ROUTE N^o 10.—San Jose to: Sanatorio Duran ≠ Robert's
Farm ≠ End of New Road Irazu Volcano.

NOTES

When you return from your volcano
ride stop at

ROBERT'S RESTAURANT

located on Robert's farm

RESTAURANT and BAR-SERVICE
are excellent and if desired hotel
accomodation may be provided

NOT every day will you be touring the country and if you wish to relax with a good book then visit us. We carry a large assortment and a great variety of American and European authors in very reasonably priced editions.

Are you an artist? Do you sketch or paint? You will find all you need in this line at our store.

We also carry photographic supplies and cameras, picture postcards of the country from all regions, Typical Costa Rican Souvenirs and many other interesting novelties.

LIBRERIA UNIVERSAL

Carlos Federspiel & Co. S. A.

PRINTERS AND LITHOGRAPHERS

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The illustrations in this booklet were drawn by

R. KLIEFOTH

ETCHINGS, WATERCOLORS, OIL PAINTINGS, etc., of typical Costa Rican scenery by the same artist may be bought at either the

LIBRERIA UNIVERSAL

or at the artist's studio

H

Empresa Teatral Urbini S. A.

Established 1918

Movie-Picture Houses in San Jose

- ◆ PALACE
- ◆ VARIEDADES
- ◆ AMERICA
- ◆ MODERNO
- ◆ LIBANO
- ◆ KEITH
- ◆ IDEAL

30 affiliated Movie Theatres throughout the country

THE BEST SHOWS

Special service of American and European pictures with latest sound equipments

Managers:

MARIO URBINI - HUGO FONSECA

P. O. Box 627 - SAN JOSE

Are you an artist? Do you sketch or paint? You will find all you need in this line at our store.

We also carry photographic supplies and cameras, picture postcards of the country from all regions, Typical Costa Rican Souvenirs and many other interesting novelties.

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Carlos Federspiel & Co. S. A.

PRINTERS AND LITHOGRAPHERS

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The illustrations in this booklet were drawn by

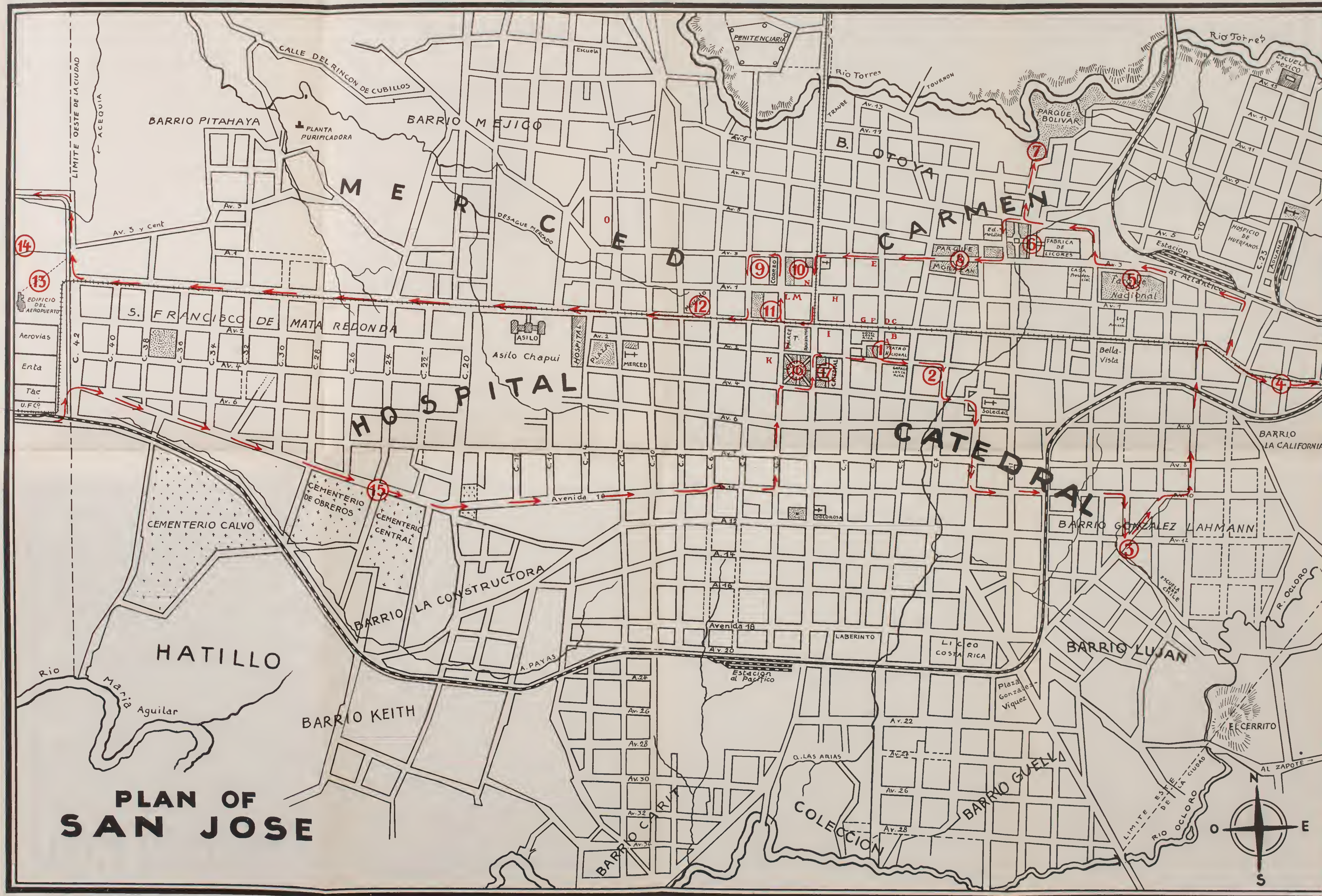
R. KLIEFOTH

ETCHINGS, WATERCOLORS, OIL PAINTINGS, etc., of typical Costa Rican scenery by the same artist may be bought at either the

LIBRERIA UNIVERSAL

or at the artist's studio

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Empresa Teatral Urbini S. A.

Established 1918

Movie-Picture Houses in San Jose

- ♦ PALACE
- ♦ VARIEDADES
- ♦ AMERICA
- ♦ MODERNO
- ♦ LIBANO
- ♦ KEITH
- ♦ IDEAL

30 affiliated Movie Theatres throughout the country

THE BEST SHOWS

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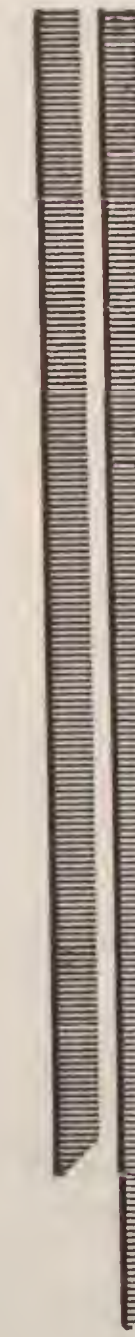
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THE CENTRAL PLATEAU OF COSTA RICA



DISTANCES:

San José to Heredia	Kms. 10		San José to Guadalupe	Kms. 4	
San José to Alajuela	" 22		San José to San Vicente	" 5	Route No. 5
San José to Cacao	" 36½	Route No. 1	San José to San Isidro	" 11	
San José to Grecia	" 41		San José to Las Nubes	" 17	
San José to Naranjo	" 55		San José to Desamparados	" 3	Route No. 6
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			San José to La Gloria Ranch	" 10½	
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			San José to Tres Rios	" 10	
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For complete description of these trips, refer to Sightseeing booklet

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industry, the TABACALERA
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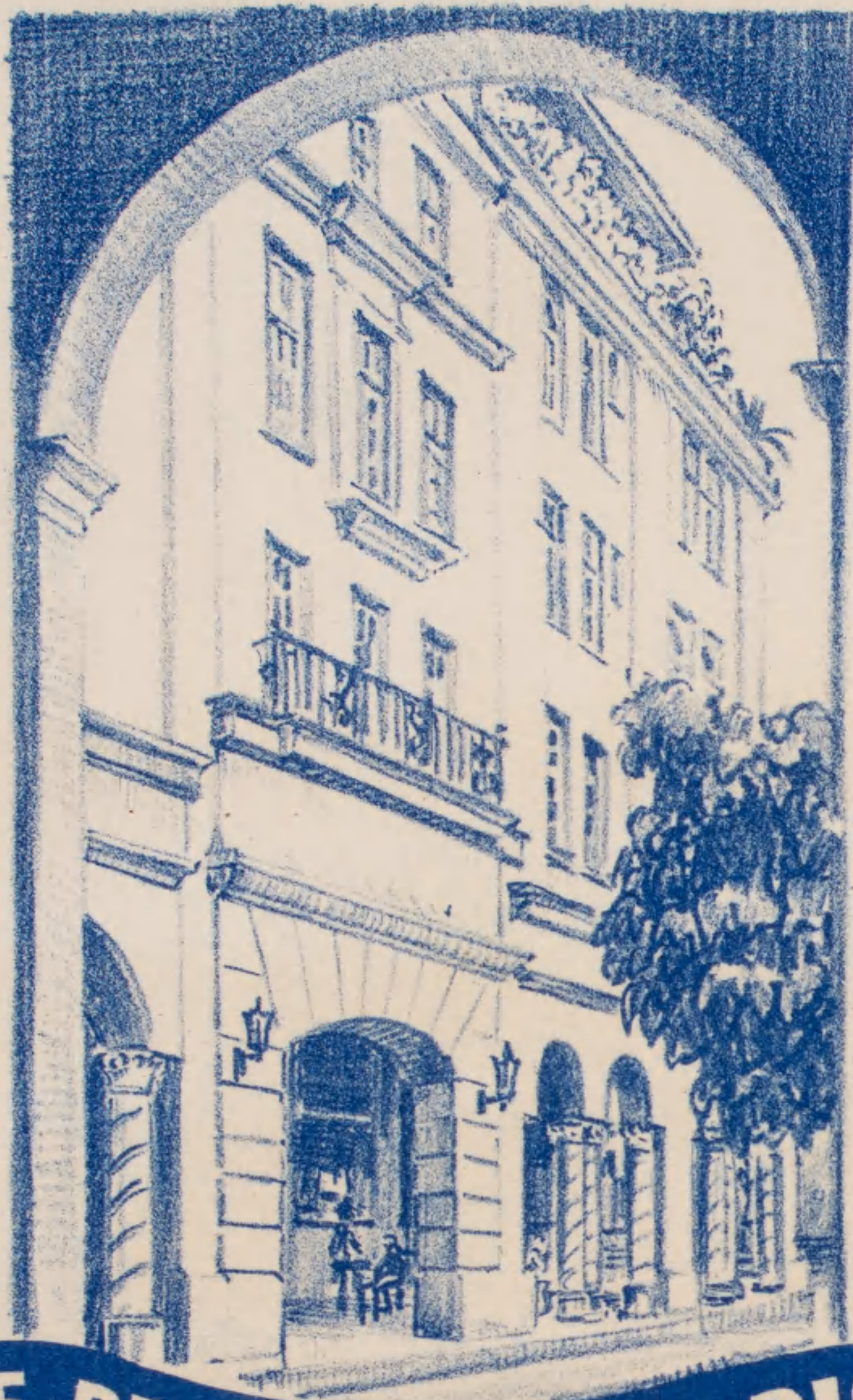
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1.—This Orchid is known as «Torito». Its scientific name is «*Stanhopea Devonensis*». Beautiful and fragrant.

If you are a lover of Peace, of Tranquility, of Beautiful Scenery and of a Morning in Spring, then come to Costa Rica.

In Costa Rica you will find a peaceful, peaceloving and hospitable people, rich and poor alike.

In Costa Rica you will find tranquil surroundings, with none of the hustle and bustle of the big cities of Europe and North America. Life moves along in a leisurely sort of way, and the



2.—Crater of the Poás Volcano. 9,000 ft. high.

visitor eventually comes to realize that, after all, a little more of the «mañana» spirit helps to make life more enjoyable.

In Costa Rica you will find scenery second to none. Along the coasts are the usual palm-fringed bays and inlets and rivers, the typical beautiful vistas of the Tropics; while in the interior, high up in the mountains may be found scenery rivalling that of Switzerland and the Rocky Mountains, albeit perhaps on a somewhat smaller scale.

And the Climate! Every morning is a Spring morning in Costa Rica. Warm, balmy, flower-scented breezes keep the temperature ideal and constant all the year round. There is no



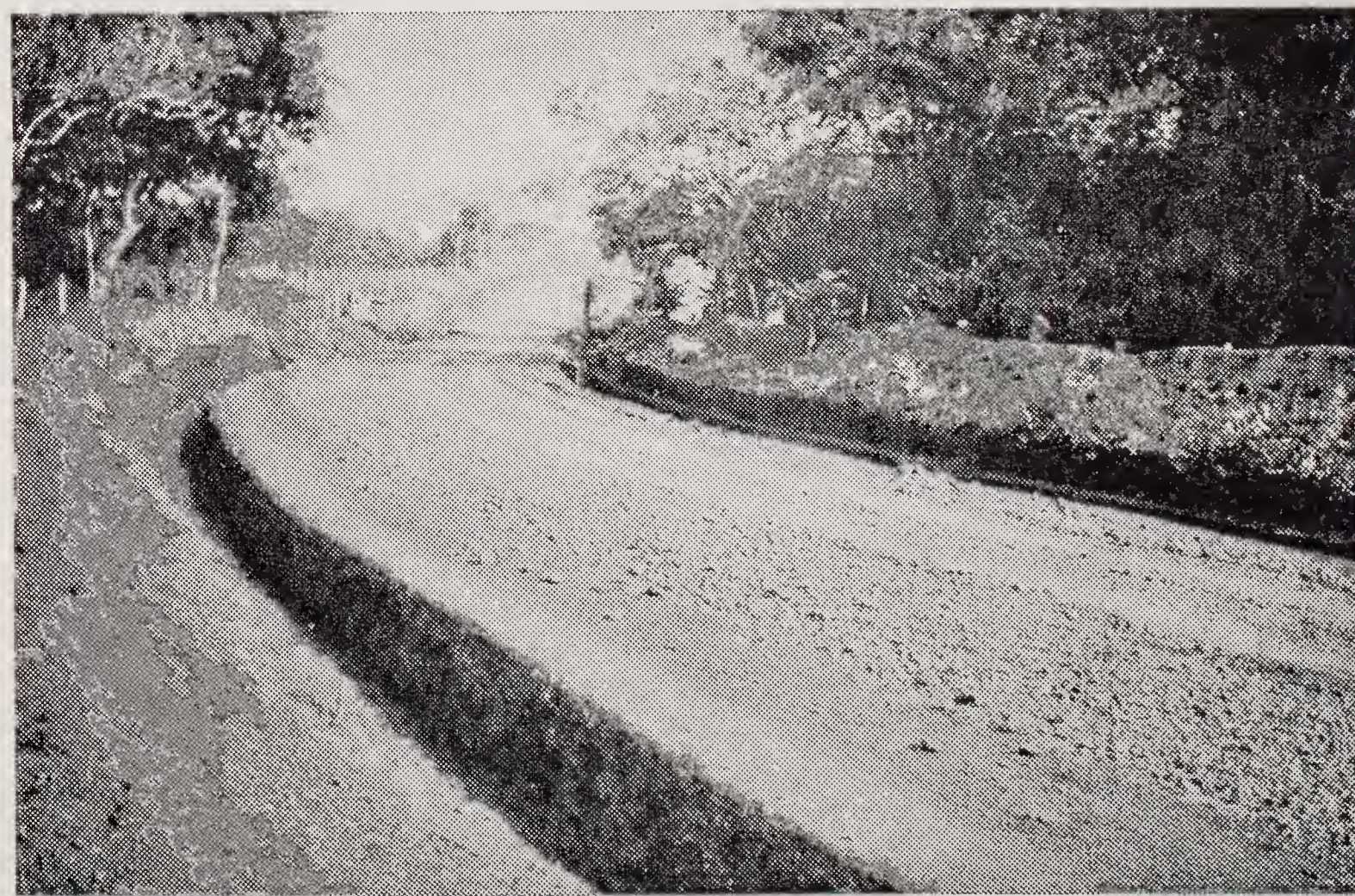
3.—Fresh water lake connected underground with the Poás crater.



4.—Building a highway towards crater of the Poás Volcano.

Autumn or cold Winter in Costa Rica. The trees and shrubs and grass are green, and the flowers bloom throughout the year.

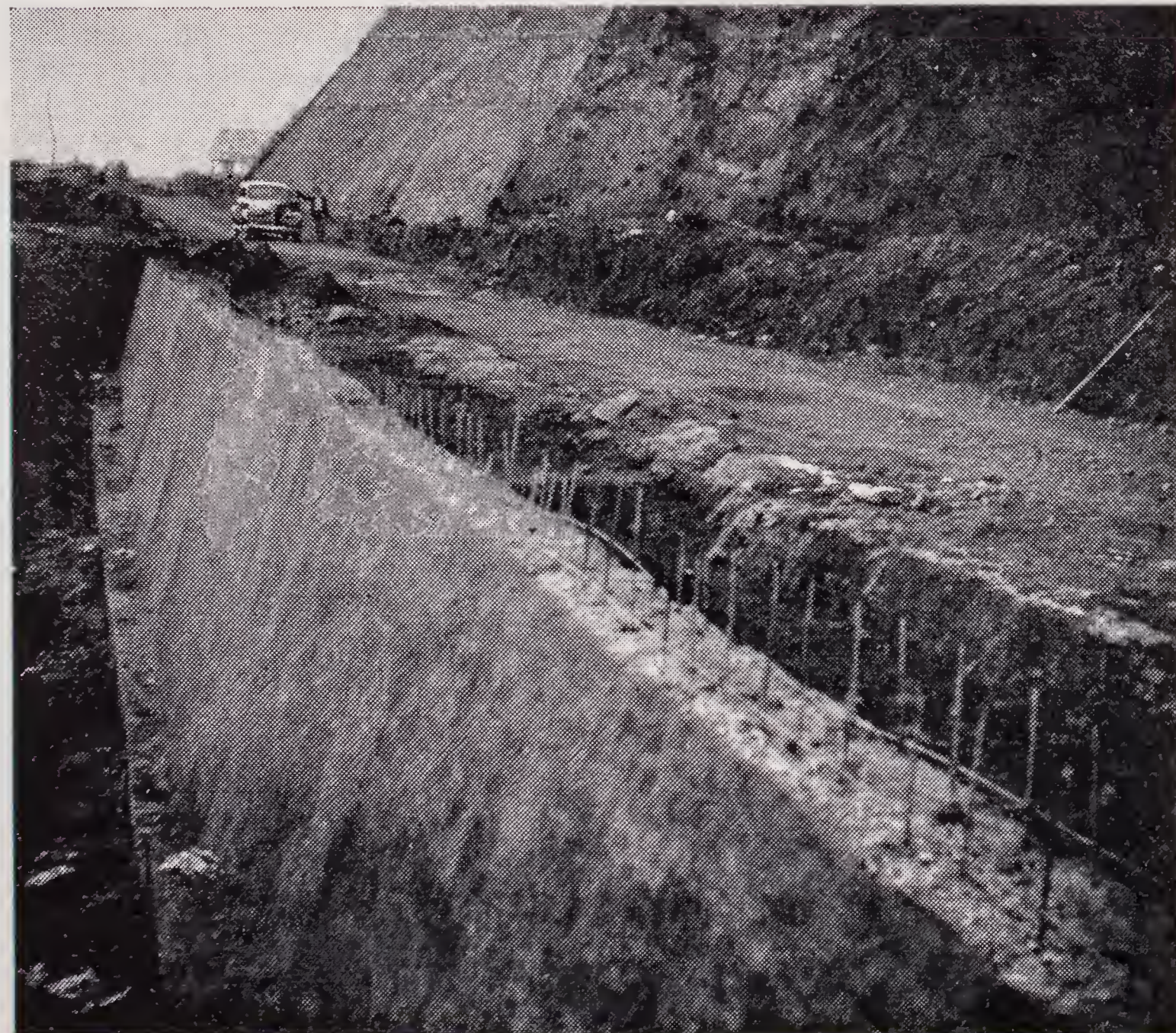
In Costa Rica you will find every modern convenience and amenity that you have at home. Palatial steamers call at the principal ports on both the Atlantic and the Pacific Coasts.



5.—Section of highway to the crater of the Poás Volcano.



6.—Big mountain cut for highway to the Poás Volcano.



7.—Retaining wall built to hold up mountain side.



8.—Crater of the Irazú Volcano. 11,322 ft. high.

Modern, comfortable trains run from coast to coast. Safe airplanes connect Costa Rica with the other countries in the American Continent and with every town and village throughout the Republic. San José, the Capital, has many theaters offering the latest talking pictures, in English. The cities are clean, sanitary and picturesque.

What you may do in Costa Rica

In Costa Rica the sparkling air will give you a new interest in life. You will want to be up and doing.

The high mountains will call you and whether on foot, on horseback or by automobile, you will want to explore them.



9.—Dairy farm and restaurant near the crater of Irazú Volcano.



Anona

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Custard Apple

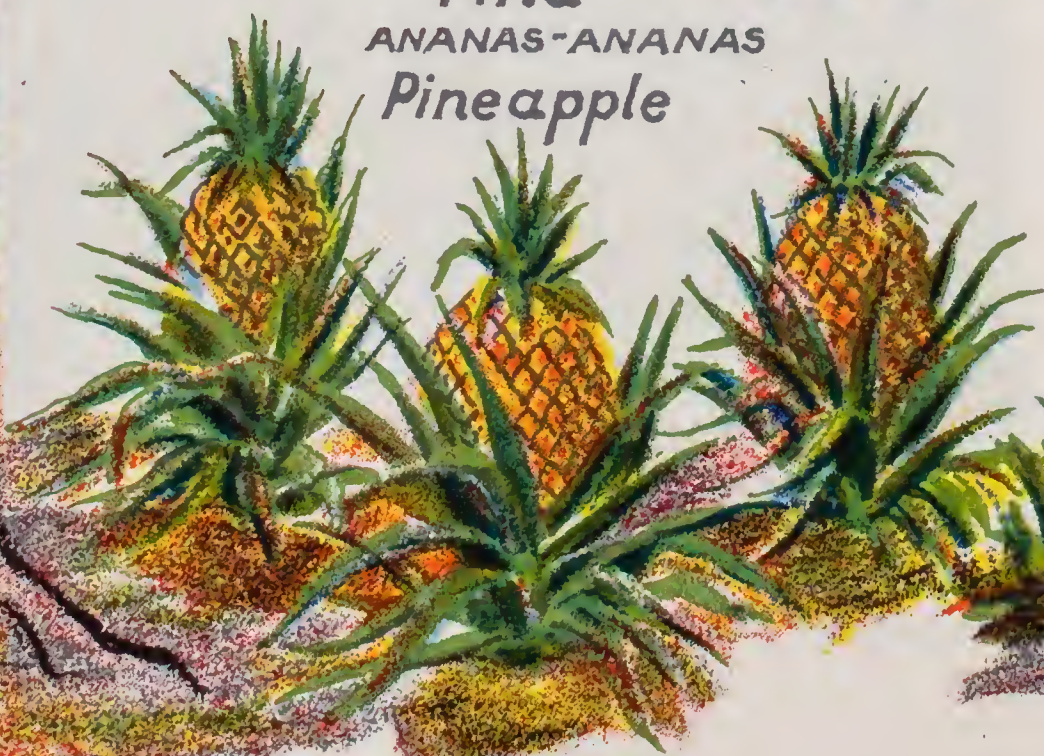


Papaya
CARICA PAPAYA



Aguacate
PERSEA GRATISSIMA
Alligator-pear

Piña
ANANAS-ANANAS
Pineapple



Cacao

TEOBROMA CACAO



Zapote
LUCUMA MAMMOSA
Sapota-tree.



Banano Gros Michel

MUSA SAPIENTUM





10.—Concrete highway to crater of the Irazú Volcano.

Mighty Irazú, Poás and Turrialba Volcanoes, peaceful and slumbering for the time being, but none the less intensely awesome and thrilling to behold, will tempt you to climb their slopes and view their craters.

If you play Golf or Tennis, there is every facility to do so in Costa Rica. If you would like to go wandering through the primitive jungle discovering rare orchids, gorgeously plumaged birds and jewelled butterflies, you may do so in Costa Rica. If you like to explore the twists and turns of beautiful rivers, hemmed in by jungle-clad mountains, you may do so in safety and comparative comfort in Costa Rica. Rushing torrents and

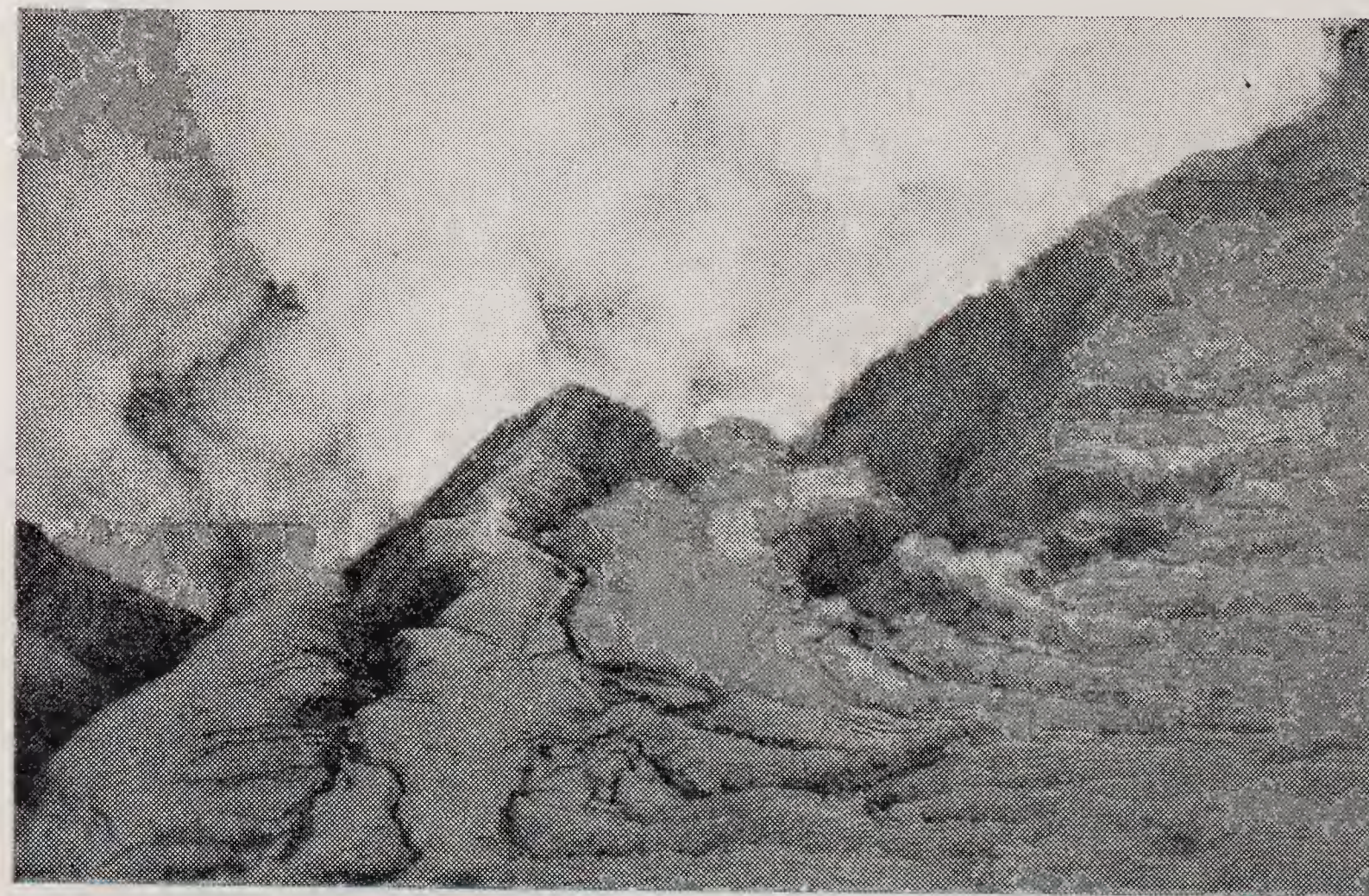


11.—Panoramic view of the dairy at San Juan = Robert's farm, on the way to Irazu's crater.



12.—Daring girl explorers at the crater of the Turrialba Volcano. 10,560 ft. high.

waterfalls will make you think you are in the highlands of Scotland. The rivers are full of fish to tempt the fisherman. In Costa Rica you may eat of every known fruit and vegetable of both the Tropics and the Temperate Zone. Pineapples, Ba-



13.—Turrialba Volcano. 10,560 ft. high.



14.—*Hotel Costa Rica, San José. The biggest modern Hotel.*



15.—*Hotel Europa, San José.*



16.—*Charming landscape in Costa Rica.*

nanas, Oranges, Lemons, Grape-fruit, Limes, Strawberries, Blackberries, Nísperos, Mangoes, Apples and many others all grow almost side by side.

Your coffee, the world's choicest, comes to you directly from the plantation where it was grown, when you are in Costa Rica. The milk and water which you drink will be of the purest.

Costa Rica welcomes visitors, so much so, that a special government department known as the National Tourist Board exists solely to look after the interests of tourists. The Board does not exist simply to attract visitors to Costa Rica. Once it has persuaded him to come, it does everything possible to insure the visitor a pleasant stay. Programmes are gladly arranged so that the visitor may make the most of his time. Invitations to



17.—Fountain which supplies the port of Puntarenas with pure drinking water, through an 80—mile long pipe—line.

the leading, clubs and to important social events are invariably forthcoming. Advice is given as to the best hotel accommodations to suit the individual's pocket.

This illustrated folder, by virtue of its small size, can be considered but a very brief introduction to Costa Rica, the Heart of the Americas. You are therefore cordially invited to write to the National Tourist Board, San José, Costa Rica, for further information about holidays in Costa Rica. Interesting illustrated literature, describing Costa Rica in detail, will be sent gratis.

Information may also be obtained from most Steamship and Travel Agencies or any Costa Rican Consulate.



Guaria de Turrialba

CATTLEYA DOWIANA

Printed in Costa Rica by
LITOGRAFIA UNIVERSAL
C. Federspiel & Co. S. A. San José

COSTA RICA

American Nation Series No. 6



Pan American Union

Washington, D. C.

1938

COSTA RICA IN BRIEF

Area—23,000 square miles.

Population—591,862.

Capital—San José; population 62,162.

Language—Spanish.

Principal exports—Coffee, bananas, cocoa.

Principal imports—Textiles, foodstuffs, fuels, machinery.

The climate varies with the altitude. The coastal plains have a mean temperature ranging from 77 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit, while the central tableland averages from 59 to 77 degrees and the cool mountain regions from 41 to 59 degrees. Rainfall may also be zoned according to altitude, the coastal plains having an abundance, the tableland a moderate amount and the mountain regions comparatively little.

Chief physical characteristics—Costa Rica is shaped like an oblong and extends in a northwest-southeast direction from Nicaragua to Panama. A mountain range centrally traverses its length and supports a broad tableland which drops away on both sides to the coastal plains. There are numerous rivers, the principal ones being the Río San Juan draining Lake Nicaragua, the Río Parísimina in the northeast, the Río Sixaola in the southeast, and the Río Tempisque, which drains the level Guanacaste peninsula in the northwest.

Means of approach—There are two principal seaports: Puerto Limón on the Caribbean coast and Puntarenas on the Pacific. Limón is a port-of-call for vessels from Europe, the West Indies, South America and the east coast of the United States, while Puntarenas may be reached from Panama and west coast ports in the United States and South America. San José, the capital, about half-way between the Caribbean and the Pacific, can be reached by rail from both Puntarenas and Limón. San José is on the Pan American Airways route between the United States and South America, while two national lines connect interior cities with the coasts.



COAT OF ARMS OF COSTA RICA

COSTA RICA

INTRODUCTION

THE Republic of Costa Rica embraces an area of 23,000 square miles and has a population of 591,862. The southernmost of the Central American Republics, it is situated between the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, which form its respective western and eastern boundaries. From Panama in the south to Nicaragua in the north, Costa Rica's Caribbean or Atlantic coastline extends for about 119 miles while its corresponding Pacific coastline is 286 miles in length. Costa Rica is centrally traversed from the northwest to the southeast by a mountain chain, a portion of the Andes. The presence of this cordillera produces throughout the country a greatly varied climate which may be classified into three zones, the regions lying within each zone contributing in a different way to the general agricultural economy, the basis of wealth for the Republic.

The hot zone comprises those lands under 3200 feet altitude. These are mostly coastal and river plains, forested or grassy, which begin at the sea-coasts and advance to the central cordillera. The mean temperature in this region is between 77 and 95 degrees Fahrenheit. The Atlantic section is watered by abundant rainfall, about three hundred days a year, while in the Pacific section the rainy season lasts from May to November and the dry from November to April. The chief products of this low-lying, humid zone are bananas, cocoa, coconuts, gums, sugar cane, fine woods and fruits.



Courtesy of National Tourist Board

COSTA RICA

In the upland region of Costa Rica, where there occurs the greatest population concentration, the cities and towns are connected by highways, while San José and other cities of the plateau region are connected by rail with ports on both the Atlantic and the Pacific.

The temperate zone, 3200 to 6500 feet altitude, comprises the central plateau formed by the cordillera. Here the climate is healthful and pleasant, the temperature ranging from 59 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit, while the rainy and dry seasons regularly alternate. These highlands are more densely populated than the two other climatic regions and they produce the best grades of coffee, the chief agricultural crop of the country, vegetables, cereals and fruits.

The cool zone, comprising lands over 6500 feet altitude, is the least extensive of the three and also the least populated. Here the mountains attain their full height and break up the country into rough divisions where agriculture is carried on only with difficulty. The temperature varies from 41 to 59 degrees Fahrenheit and the air is exceptionally dry. Water springs and waterfalls are to be found everywhere while many of the mountains are covered to their tops with grass. This region produces the best grades of cattle for milk and meat production; fruit and vegetables are also produced, but on a minor scale.

Costa Rica is provided with an extensive network of rivers. Because of the mountainous sources of these waterways, water power is almost unlimited. On the northeastern slopes of the cordillera, all rivers flow into the Río San Juan which drains Lake Nicaragua into the Caribbean Sea; the most important of these tributaries is the Río San Carlos. In the northeastern part of the country there are extensive plains producing a dense vegetation; they stretch from Puerto Limón to the Nicaraguan border and are traversed by several streams, chiefly the Río Parisimina and its branch, the Río Reventazón. There is a smaller level region in the southeast which is drained by the Río Sixaola. On the Pacific coast, the Guanacaste peninsula is served by the Río Tempisque, while the more densely populated area around San José, in the center of the Republic, is drained by the Río Grande de Tarcoles and the southwestern plains by the Río Grande de Terraba.

Everywhere in the valleys there is exceptionally rich soil produced by volcanic ash deposited by the Costa Rican volcanoes, most of them now extinct, chief among which are Irazú and Turrialba, attaining heights of 11,200 and 10,900 feet respectively. The wild life of Costa Rica includes jaguars, tepiscuintes, tapirs, deer, rabbits, wild pigs and monkeys. Tropical birds, some of them beautiful and brilliantly colored, abound. A few of the most numerous are: parrots, macaws, toucans, humming birds and wild turkeys.

HISTORY

Columbus, on his fourth and last voyage to the New World, after passing Santo Domingo, stopping at Honduras and continuing southward along the coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua, discovered Costa Rica on September 18, 1502, when he disembarked in Cariay Bay, where there is now located the seaport city of Limón. At the time of the discovery, it is estimated that there were only 27,000 Indians in Costa Rica. These had developed primitive civilizations within the five tribes into which they were divided, using wooden and stone tools and cultivating a few agricultural crops such as cocoa, corn, beans and cotton. Although they reciprocated the friendly overtures made by Columbus, this numerically small group of natives offered a determined resistance to the subsequent incursions of the conquistadores with the result that by 1611 the entire population, including the Spaniards and Spanish-Indians, was not more than fifteen thousand, the rapid and great decrease being accounted for mostly by the incessant warfare. To the present day, however, the decline of the Indian race has continued and there are now less than four thousand aborigines in the country. They have never mixed to any great extent with the European population and the political and social strife between racial elements which has characterized many other Latin American countries has played no important part in Costa Rica's history.

since the days when the golden dreams of the conquistadores were brought to a disappointed close by the geological fact that quantities of easily accessible gold were not to be found in the land.

The first town to be founded in Costa Rica by the Spanish was that of Bruselas, near the present site of Puntarenas on the Pacific coast. This settlement, destined to remain for the short period of three years, was established by Francisco Fernández de Córdoba, lieutenant-in-charge of an expedition sent out in 1524 by Pedrarias Dávila, then governor of the colonial possession known as Darién, or Panama. Early in 1540, Hernán Sánchez de Badajoz, named *adelantado* of Costa Rica by the president of the *audiencia* at Panama, founded the city of Badajoz and the port of San Marco. These early "towns", however, were hardly more than outposts and none of them lasted for any time; they were merely tentative settlements, the precursors of Spanish authority to be established in the land. The first really important center of Spanish population in Costa Rica, which has lasted to the present day, was the city of Cartago, established in 1564 by Vázquez de Coronado, a prototype of the humane and magnanimous conquistador, who probably more than any other advanced by peaceful means the conquest of the region. For the use of the colonists in these small settlements, livestock, including horses, cattle and swine, was introduced by the *licenciado* Juan de Cavallón in 1561, the first conquistador to make active gains in the conquest.

The last of the Spanish conquerors in Costa Rica was Perafán de Ribera, who consolidated the work of his predecessors and, in 1569, established the notorious *encomienda* system in Costa Rica by dividing the Indians into groups, each group being owned by a conquistador or his heirs. The *encomienda* was somewhat similar to the slavery system operating in the southern United States before the Civil War; the natives worked the land for the benefit of the *dueño*, or owner, in return for which they were provided a bare subsistence.

After the conquest, Costa Rica ("Rich Coast"; so-called by the inhabitants of Nicaragua of those times to distinguish the region from that claimed by Columbus as his personal property and known as "Veragua") became a province of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, which included seven other provinces: Guatemala, Chiapas, Verapaz, Soconusco, San Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. The capital of the Captaincy-General was at Guatemala City. Previously it had been in Panama and Honduras. The governors of Costa Rica lived in Cartago, then the capital of the province. Exercising political, military and judicial authority, they were appointed for a period of five years at a salary of two thousand pesos annually. The cities within the province were governed by cabildos, or councils, which offices were subject to purchase and sale.

The people of Costa Rica, during the entire colonial period of about two and a half centuries (1570-1821), had to face extreme hardship and danger.

Both Costa Rican coasts were continually ravaged by the raids of the Mosquito Indians of Nicaragua on the one hand, and by the devastating attacks of the English and Dutch pirates on the other. These raids, however, were secondary; perhaps the greatest burden which the courageous Costa Ricans of that era had to bear was the stagnating effect of the Spanish mercantile policy pursued in the New World, which prevented an exchange of goods between either the colonies themselves or between the colonies and any nation but Spain. Deprived of obtaining goods from the outside and consequently dependent upon what they could raise and import from Spain, these early pioneers were, for the most part, poverty-stricken. Conditions were so bad by 1707 that in that year the governor at Cartago authorized the use of cocoa beans for money. Nevertheless, the population of the province increased, although slowly, and by the time independence from Spain was won, the inhabitants numbered 50,000.

When, on September 15, 1821, the independence of the Central American States was declared at Guatemala City, the news was received with great joy



CATARACTS OF THE CARACHO AND POAS RIVERS

Waterfalls are only one of the many natural beauties of Costa Rica which are of special interest and charm.



A COUNTRYSIDE SCENE NEAR SAN JOSE

by the people of Costa Rica, and on November 12, 1821, the last Spanish governor, Don Juan Manuel de Cañas, was obliged to resign his office.

Upon the formation of the Central American Republic, Costa Rica became a state of the Union, and in 1822 was annexed by the Emperor of Mexico, Augustín Iturbide. With the fall of that short-lived empire, the Central American States were once more free to adopt their own forms of government. A constitutional congress meeting in Guatemala City proclaimed the constitution of the Central American Federation on November 22, 1824. Afterwards, as the states composing the Federation one by one withdrew, Costa Rica declared her independence on April 1, 1829, but stated her willingness again to enter the union if it should ever be reestablished.

Several attempts were made by the Central American states to reestablish the Federation, but without result, and on January 21, 1847, Costa Rica proclaimed her constitution and formally adopted the title of the Republic of Costa Rica.

CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

The present constitution of the Republic was adopted December 7, 1871, some slight amendments having been added since. The government is divided into legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The legislative power is exercised by a single body called the Constitutional Congress and composed

of 44 deputies. It meets in the capital, San José, on May 1 and continues in session for sixty days, which period may be continued for ninety days if the Chamber so decides. The president can also convene it in extraordinary session. The deputies are elected in the proportion of one deputy for every 15,000 inhabitants or fraction exceeding 7,500. Voting for president, deputies and municipal councillors is free, direct and secret, and by a Constitutional amendment passed in 1936, it is compulsory for all male citizens of age who are able to support themselves.

The president's term of office is four years, and he may not be reelected for a second consecutive term. There is no vice-president, but three *designados*, known as first, second, and third, are named by Congress to exercise the executive power in case of the death, absence from the country, resignation, or incapacity of the president.

The president is assisted by a Cabinet composed of secretaries, who are appointed by and are responsible to him. The Cabinet consists of the following offices: Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Worship; Secretary of Interior; Secretary of Finance and Commerce; Secretary of Public Education; Secretary of Promotion and Agriculture; Secretary of Public Health and Social Welfare; Secretary of Public Safety.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, Justice, and Worship (*Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores, Justicia, Culto y Gracia*) through the diplomatic and consular corps maintains relations with foreign countries and has charge of all matters usually pertaining to that department. It also has charge of all



THE POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH BUILDING AT SAN JOSE



Courtesy of J. F. Robert

GRAN HOTEL COSTA RICA AT SAN JOSE

matters pertaining to the administration of justice, the granting of pardons, and the affairs of the Roman Catholic Church. Although Catholicism is the State religion, complete freedom of worship is constitutionally guaranteed.

The Department of Interior (Secretaría de Gobernación) has charge of the interior administration of the Provinces, through the governors and canton chiefs, and also exercises a general supervision over the municipal councils. The post offices and telegraph systems, the recorder of deeds, the civil register, the national archives, the city police forces, as well as rural police, the police courts, and the national prison, are under this department. At present there are 215 post offices in the Republic and a similar number of telegraph offices.

The Department of Finance and Commerce (Secretaría de Hacienda y Comercio) has charge of the administration of the national finances and the regulation of commerce, all customhouses and internal revenue offices being under it, as well as the National Commercial Laboratory where all foodstuffs, chemicals and beverages are analyzed. The Department also controls the national liquor factory, which manufactures liquors and prepares alcohol for various industrial purposes.

The Department of Public Education (Secretaría de Educación Pública) is in charge of all the public elementary schools and the high schools and technical schools, such as the Lyceum at San José, the normal school at Heredia, and the Superior College for Girls; the Lawyers' College and the Faculty of Medicine, Surgery and Pharmacy, are also under the jurisdiction

of this department. The Institute of Physical Geography, the Meteorological Observatory, the National School of Fine Arts, and the national and other public libraries likewise fall within its scope.

The Department of Promotion and Agriculture (Secretaría de Fomento y Agricultura) exercises jurisdiction over the railways, bridges and roads, as well as public buildings. It is also charged with the development of agriculture and mining and the encouragement of other industries in the country.

The Department of Public Safety (Secretaría de Seguridad Pública) has charge of all matters pertaining to the instruction, maintenance, and equipment of the army and navy, and of regulations for the merchant marine.

Judicial power is vested in a National Supreme Court and in minor courts. The Supreme Court is composed of eleven justices chosen by Congress for a term of four years, and when sitting as an entire body in certain classes of cases it is known as the full court (Corte Plena). This Court, however, is divided into three sections for the adjudication of ordinary cases, as follows: Court of Cassation (Casación) composed of five justices; and two Courts of Appeal (Apelaciones) each consisting of three justices. The Chief Justice of the Court of Cassation is also the Chief Justice of the full Court (Corte Plena). The Corte Plena appoints the judges of the lower courts. The National Supreme Court has the power to declare laws unconstitutional.

The Army is composed of a Reserve and a National Guard at present consisting of 150,486 officers and men, but the standing or active army is limited to 500 by agreement with neighboring nations. The land forces are supplemented by small government vessels patrolling both Caribbean and Pacific coasts, which in time of peace operate for revenue purposes.



Courtesy of National Tourist Board

A RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED COLONIAL TYPE RESIDENCE IN SAN JOSE

The Republic is politically divided into Provinces, which are again divided into Cantons and these into Districts. The Provinces are administered by governors appointed by the President. The canton chiefs hold office upon recommendation of the governors, and are assisted by municipal councils elected by popular vote.

Costa Rica maintains a minister in Washington, D. C., as diplomatic representative to the United States. The Republic has consuls-general in New York and San Francisco, a consul in Norfolk, Virginia, and a vice-consul in Pasadena, California. Honorary consuls-general are at Chicago, St. Louis, New Orleans and Miami; honorary consuls at Chicago, San Francisco, Boston, Detroit, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Seattle, St. Paul, Toledo, Newark, Oklahoma City, Denver, Los Angeles, Mobile, Brownsville, Texas; Galveston, Houston, Newport News, Miami, New Haven, Dubuque, Hollywood, California; Lawrence, Kansas; Rochester, Minnesota; the Philippine Islands; St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; and the cities of Balboa and Cristóbal in the Canal Zone. Honorary vice-consuls are at Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Atlanta, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Missouri; Wichita, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. The United States maintains a minister, a consul and two vice-consuls at San José and a vice-consul at Puerto Limón.



GARDEN OF THE SANITARIUM FOR THE MENTALLY DEFECTIVE IN SAN JOSE

POPULATION

Because of the equable climate in the highland region in contrast with the high and humid temperature prevailing on the coasts, the population of Costa Rica has tended to concentrate in the former, especially in the section surrounding San José. It is estimated that nearly three fourths of the population is in the central meseta, or tableland. Heredia, Cartago and Alajuela, three of the most important cities in the Republic, are all within a short distance of San José and at approximately the same altitude, while the only cities of importance on the coasts are the seaports of Puerto Limón and Puntarenas, necessary channels for the foreign trade of the country. For a land devoted almost exclusively to agriculture, the city populations form a surprisingly large proportion of the total; the number of inhabitants in the capitals of the Provinces alone comprise 18 per cent of the Republic's total population. The people of Costa Rica are democratic, not only politically, but economically. With the exception of the banana industry, which is largely controlled by foreign interests, Costa Rican agriculture is in the hands of small proprietors.

The political subdivisions and capitals, with their populations, estimated as of December 31, 1936,¹ are as follows:

<i>Province</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Population</i>
San José	192,513	San José	62,162
Alajuela	123,940	Alajuela	8,512
Cartago	89,298	Cartago	8,078
Heredia	46,460	Heredia	8,926
Guanacaste	67,578	Liberia	2,938
Puntarenas	36,783	Puntarenas	7,275
Limón	35,290	Limón	8,406
	591,862		

San José,² the capital and chief city of Costa Rica, is centrally situated in the highland plateau region at an altitude of 3,870 feet, and has a population of about 62,000 inhabitants. The climate is pleasant with a mean annual temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit and an annual variation of about 5 degrees. San José is 103 miles from Puerto Limón, the chief port and means of access to the interior, 68 miles from Puntarenas and 12 miles from Cartago, the former capital.

The streets of San José are well paved and are laid out in a regular checker-board order. The three main thoroughfares are the *Calle Central*, or Central Street, the *Avenida Central*, or Central Avenue, and the *Paseo de Colón*,

¹ Memoria de la Secretaría de Hacienda y Comercio, año 1936.

² For a more lengthy description of Costa Rica's capital city, see the Pan American Union's booklet "San José."



THE FOYER OF THE NATIONAL THEATER IN COSTA RICA'S CAPITAL CITY

Exquisite furnishings and gorgeous decorations combine to make the theater one of the most pretentious in America. Mural decorations, the work of master artists from Spain, Italy and Austria-Hungary, richly brocaded furniture with gold embellishments, a parquet floor of rare quality and gilded and mirrored panels all unite in perfect harmony. This same elaborate scheme is carried out in other parts of the theater, the ceiling containing wonderful paintings. The theater is reported to have cost in the neighborhood of a million dollars, and is a monumental expression of Costa Rica's love for the beautiful.

named in honor of Columbus; there is an obelisk dedicated to his memory centering the Paseo. The *Calle Central* and the *Avenida Central* divide the city into quarters. The buildings are rather low, mostly under four stories, and attractive in appearance, especially the public edifices. The National Museum, which contains beautiful samples of ancient Central American pottery, the National Theater, the Observatory, and the National Congress are among the outstanding buildings of the capital. There are small parks everywhere and in the largest of them, Central Park, weekly concerts are given by the military band and are usually well attended by the citizens. Moving-picture fans in San José are offered a unique convenience by one of the capital's theaters. A few minutes before the picture commences, a large motor-driven siren announces the fact loudly enough to be heard throughout the surrounding neighborhood, thus enabling theater-goers to arrive at the beginning of the show.

On the western outskirts of the city there is a large and beautiful recreation park called *La Sabana*, which is connected with the heart of the capital by the broad *Paseo de Colón*. Adjacent to *La Sabana* is the National Stadium where soccer matches are held. Bolívar Park, the city's zoological garden,

is also located on the outskirts and has on exhibit interesting specimens of animals native to the Central American jungles.

San José is well lighted with electric power furnished by the numerous rapid streams that course down the eastern slopes of the cordillera. Local manufacturing, engaged in supplying the city's inhabitants, includes leather goods, textiles, beverages, candies, candles, bakery products, furniture and printing. There are through trains to the seaports of Puerto Limón and Puntarenas and local trains to the neighboring cities of Cartago, Heredia and Alajuela. Excellent highways also connect San José with these cities. La Sabana airport, adjoining San José on the west, is the most important civil airport for the city and is at present being converted into a large and modern international airbase. The Santa Ana airport, about 12 miles west of San José, is owned by Pan American Airways, which links the city by air with South America, other Central American points and the United States. San José is about 2000 air miles from Washington, D. C.

Puerto Limón, anciently the Indian village of Cariari where Columbus first landed in Costa Rica and today the principal port of the Republic, is situated on Limón Bay, an arm of the Caribbean Sea, in an easterly direction from San José. Puerto Limón is laid out in even squares, with well paved streets and an excellent sanitation system. The city has about 8,000 inhabitants, mainly engaged in or supported by the shipping and warehousing trade. The port of Limón is the shipping point for about sixty percent of the value of the country's total exports while about forty-five percent of the value of its imports are received there. The most important products shipped from Limón are coffee, accounting for nearly two thirds of the total value of the port's shipments, and bananas, which account for almost all of the remaining third. Limón shipments of the former product are about twice those from Puntarenas, the chief Pacific port and second in importance, while virtually the entire banana trade of the country is handled at Limón. The Costa Rica Railway from Limón to San José serves two important agricultural sections: the banana and cocoa districts in the low eastern coastal area and the highland coffee plantations around Heredia, Alajuela, Cartago and San José in the central tablelands. Limón is also connected with the northeastern section of Costa Rica by the Northern Railway. The Limón airport, just south of the city, is regularly used by commercial and private aircraft, while seaplanes may land in Limón Bay. San José is only 45 minutes by air from Limón. There are weekly steamers to New York, New Orleans, Boston, and Bristol, England.

The harbor at Limón is an open roadstead protected from the prevailing northeast winds by Uvita Island. Depths of water are sufficient to accommodate the deepest draft vessels. Berthing facilities consist of two piers, one a wooden structure belonging to the National Government and the other, an



Courtesy of National Tourist Board

BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS, PATRON SAINT OF COSTA RICA, AT CARTAGO

iron T-shaped wharf, the property of the Costa Rica Railway Company. The former, equipped with a shed and banana conveyors, is used by fruit companies for loading their ships; the latter has a berthing capacity for three vessels.

Cartago, founded in 1564 by Vázquez de Coronado, is the oldest Spanish city in Costa Rica and during most of the colonial period it was the capital of the Province. The present city has a population of about 8,000 and is situated at the base of the volcano Irazú, from whose summit, 11,200 feet above sea level, one can view the Caribbean, 35 miles to the east, the Pacific, 60 miles to the west, and, far to the north, Lake Nicaragua, which forms a part of the Republic's northern boundary. Cartago is higher than San José by a thousand feet and is therefore slightly cooler. This ancient town has managed to preserve the traditional Spanish architecture more than has San José where modern and colonial buildings are found side by side. Like that of many of the Costa Rican cities, Cartago's street system is uncomplicated, the streets running straight east and west, north and south. Most of the houses are of attractive frame construction. Perhaps the communal building having the greatest interest is the church dedicated to Costa Rica's patron saint, *Nuestra Señora de los Angeles*, or Our Lady of the Angels, which is famous not only within the Republic but throughout all Central America.



LOADING PIER AND BEACH AT PUNTARENAS, CHIEF COSTA RICAN PORT ON THE PACIFIC

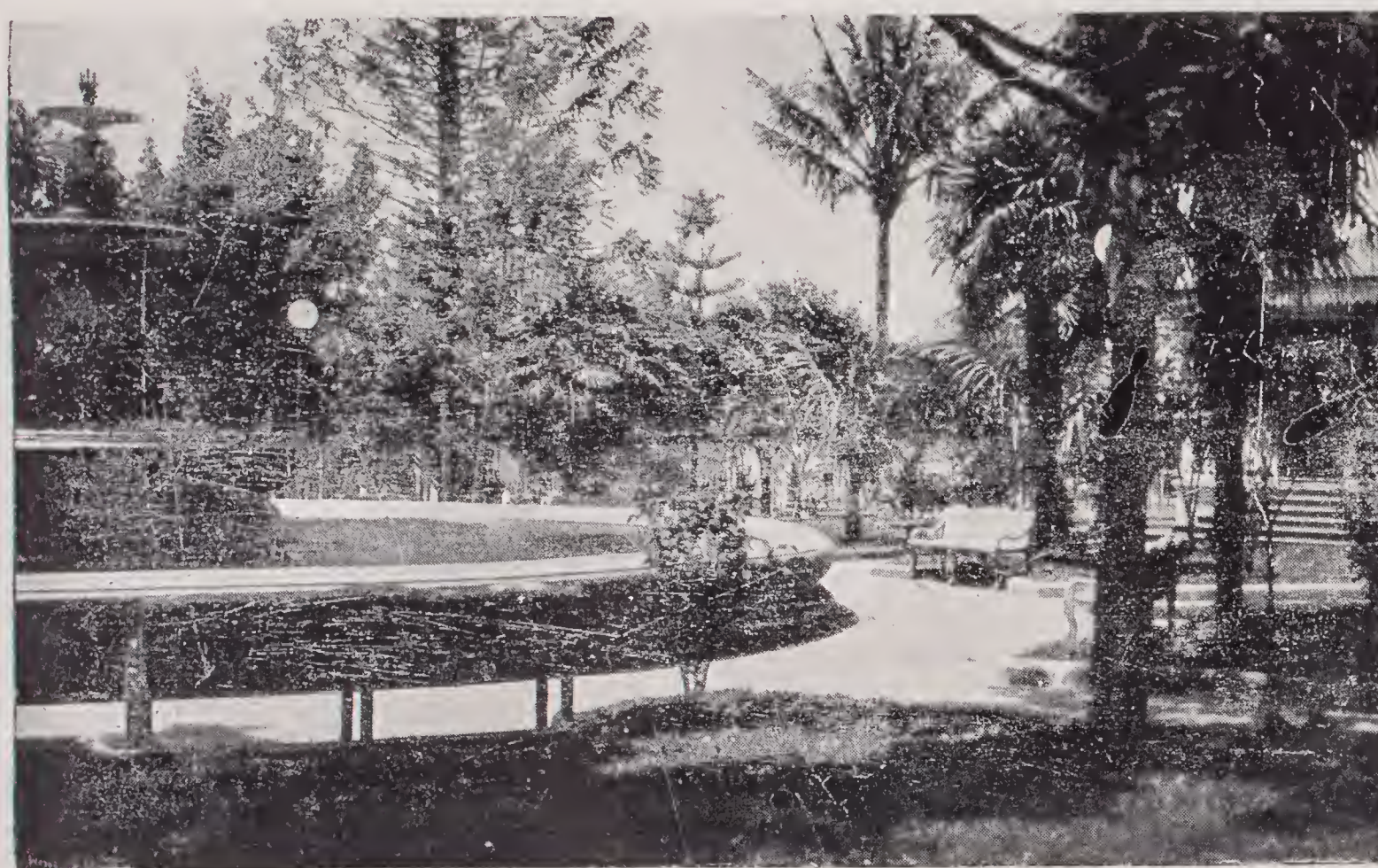
Cartago is on the Costa Rica Railway running from San José to Puerto Limón and is connected with the former city by the recently completed *Carretera Central* (Central Highway). The countryside around Cartago is devoted almost exclusively to the cultivation of some of Costa Rica's finest grades of coffee and consequently the town has become a trading place for the plantation owners as well as a railway shipping point for coffee destined for the seaports.

Puntarenas, Costa Rica's principal port on the Pacific coast, is situated on the Gulf of Nicoya on the end of a narrow spit of land extending for three miles westward into the Gulf and forming a lagoon between itself and the mainland. Puntarenas is a favorite summer resort for the people of San José; near the city are excellent beaches and deep-sea fishing excursions may easily be made out of the port. The Island of San Lucas, at the mouth of the harbor, is the site of the nation's penal settlement. Puntarenas is the gateway to the Province of Guanacaste, a cattle-raising district occupying the Guanacaste peninsula, and the terminal point of the government-owned Pacific Railway running westward from San José, the rail journey between the cities being a matter of four hours or less. Formerly Puntarenas was the handling point for most of Costa Rica's foreign commerce but Limón's shipping trade has exceeded that of the Pacific port for many years. While

exports from Puntarenas are much lower than those from Limón, about an equal amount of imports are received in each. Steamers from the Pacific coasts of North and South America call at Puntarenas and airplanes operate regularly out of the civil airport, about 10 miles east of the city. San José is only 40 minutes away by air.

Heredia, capital of the Province of Heredia, is the chief center of a large coffee region. The city is situated about 6 miles from San José on the Costa Rica Railway and has a population of around 9,000 inhabitants.

Alajuela, also on the Costa Rica Railway and the center of an important sugar-growing district, is 14 miles from San José; its population is slightly over 8,500. Located at an altitude of 3,000 feet, Alajuela has a somewhat



A PARK SCENE IN HEREDIA

warmer climate than the capital and is famous for its beautiful flowers. Near the city is the volcano Poás, which boasts the world's largest crater, about a mile in diameter and several hundred feet deep. Weekly cattle fairs are held at Alajuela and it is a business city of considerable importance.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture, the basic industry of Costa Rica, is mainly dependent upon three crops: coffee, bananas, and cocoa. Coffee is the predominating product and yields the highest returns to the country. Bananas are a strong supplement to coffee as a money crop while cocoa, although an important export item, is grown on a much smaller but rising scale. Coffee and cocoa plant-

ing have been on the increase for several years while banana planting has tended to decline. It is estimated that more than a million acres in Costa Rica are devoted to agriculture, an area which may be greatly expanded when a more comprehensive transportation system makes new planting regions available to growers. There are about six million acres of grasslands in the country, on a part of which some cattle raising takes place.

Coffee was first introduced into Costa Rica from Cuba during the early years of the nineteenth century by Tomás de Acosta, then governor of the Province. In a short time it became the leading agricultural crop, outdistancing within thirty years after its introduction the staple products of bananas and cocoa which had been cultivated in the country since the opening of the colonial period. For many years the economic well-being of Costa Rica was almost entirely dependent upon coffee, the increasing production of which brought a corresponding development of the nation's prosperity.

Most of the cafetales or coffee fincas, largely in the hands of Costa Ricans and in small estates, are found on the central plateau in the highland Provinces of Heredia, Cartago, San José and Alajuela where the rainfall, temperature and soil conditions are ideal for coffee culture. The crop is also cultivated to some extent in sections of every other Province except Puntarenas. Estimates place the number of coffee trees in the Republic at 37,000,000. Drying and fermentation of the coffee beans take place on the plantations themselves or at concentration points in the towns. Shipments of coffee from the highland region to the seaports of Limón and Puntarenas are made via the Costa Rica Railway and the Pacific Railway, respectively, the shipping point usually dependent upon the proximity of the plantation to the port, and the ultimate destination of the shipment.

The coffee is of an exceptional quality and has a fine flavor, characteristics which have kept its price at a high level. Most demand for the Costa Rican product comes from Europe, especially England, which takes the greater part of the nation's crop. Since 1855 Costa Rican coffee exports have increased from about 3,000 tons in that year to 24,000 tons in 1935. Although occasional setbacks have been encountered, nearly every five-year period since 1855 has shown a gain of from one to five thousand metric tons, signifying a slow, steady increase in coffee plantings. Great Britain has been the chief purchaser of Costa Rican coffee for half a century and usually takes from one-half to three-quarters of the country's entire coffee exports. Germany is the next largest purchaser and the United States follows in third place. Each sack of coffee shipped from Costa Rica is marked "Café de Costa Rica," in accordance with governmental regulations.

Although bananas were introduced in the New World early in the colonial period and were grown in various Caribbean regions, Costa Rica was the first country of the Central American group to produce them for export. The



TWO VIEWS OF THE COFFEE INDUSTRY, COSTA RICA'S MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF WEALTH

Upper view shows a coffee tree laden with fruit; the lower illustrates coffee in the drying process. The picking and preparation of coffee extends over a period of some five months, usually from November to April.



fruit is cultivated almost entirely on the Atlantic coastal plains and the greater part of the crop is purchased by the United Fruit Company which itself has large plantations there. The Atlantic banana area extends from the Sixaola River in the south to the Colorado River in the north and embraces a section of about 2,800 square miles, approximately 800 square miles of which are under cultivation. The area is served by the Costa Rica Railway and the Northern Railway which bring the bananas from the interior growing fields to the ports. Nearly all banana exports clear through the port of Limón, a small percentage being shipped by way of Puntarenas or from the port of Sixaola on the southern Atlantic coast. Virtually all of Costa Rica's bananas are shipped to the United States.

Banana production in Costa Rica was once much greater than it now is. The exhaustion of lands not properly fertilized and the destructive attacks of the "Panama disease" on the plantations have lessened the Costa Rican yield and in 1935 banana exports were only around 3,000,000 bunches as compared with about 10,000,000 in 1915. Production per acre is about 160 bunches on the best lands and on the older and poorer farms about 80 bunches. Extensive banana areas in Costa Rica have been abandoned because of soil exhaustion. The discarded plantations, however, are often replanted with cocoa, as noted below, and new banana areas are gradually being opened up on the Pacific side of the Cordillera.

Cocoa production in Costa Rica has been greatly stimulated by foreign capital. The area under cultivation, estimated at approximately 74,000 acres, is almost twice what it was in 1922. It is believed, however, that nearly 370,000 acres in Costa Rica are suitable for cocoa culture. The soil is a good loam of fine depth which contains organic matter necessary for the growth of the cocoa tree. Witchbroom and the cocoa beetle, two of the most devastating of cocoa pests, are almost unknown in Costa Rica but there are certain other, minor plant diseases against which the grower must guard. Except for a small area on the Pacific coast near Puntarenas where irrigation is required, all the plantations are along the Atlantic coast in the Limón district. In recent years the cultivation of cocoa trees on discarded banana plantations has been promoted and from present indications it appears that this trend will become more pronounced in the future. The trees are carefully tended and modern facilities are used for collection of the pods, fermentation and drying operations. While far less important than the coffee and banana crops, cocoa contributes a substantial amount to Costa Rica's total export trade. Between ten and eleven million pounds of cocoa beans are exported each year, mostly through the port of Limón. The United States is the chief purchaser of the Costa Rican crop.

Subsidiary agricultural crops are sugar cane, cultivated in the warmer sections of the central plateau, corn, beans, potatoes, and rice. There are



THE BANANA INDUSTRY IS IMPORTANT TO COSTA RICA'S WELFARE

While bananas are grown on the lowlands on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, in recent years plantings have made important increases on the Pacific side.

enough potatoes grown to meet the domestic demand but additional amounts of sugar, corn and rice must be imported.

A large variety of both tropical and temperate zone fruits are grown, but, with the exception of bananas, none extensively. Some cattle are pastured on the Pacific plains and milk cows for dairying purposes are raised in the upper levels of the cordillera around the Las Nubes (The Clouds) district.

An executive decree encourages the development of agriculture in the Republic by admitting the importation of seeds, vegetables, and plants free of customs, wharfage, and consular duties. The National Society of Agriculture is devoted to the improvement of the cattle industry, the establishment of pedigree registers, and the holding of agricultural and stock fairs. The Society also interests itself in securing seed of the best grades for the use of farmers and promotes the importation and use of agricultural machinery and fertilizers.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Coffee, bananas and cocoa form approximately ninety-five percent of Costa Rica's total export trade. The United Kingdom takes about fifty percent and the United States forty percent of the total. During recent years, however,

the United States has been purchasing an increasing quantity of Costa Rican exports. Imports into the country, chiefly in the form of textiles, foodstuffs, fuels, machinery and manufactured articles, are supplied by the United States, Germany and Great Britain, in that order, the United States furnishing about fifty percent of all imports. The total foreign trade of the country is normally around \$20,000,000 United States currency, fifty-five percent of which consist of exports, the remaining forty-five percent of imports, from which it may be seen that Costa Rica normally has a favorable trade balance.

Industrial activity in Costa Rica is devoted to the manufacturing of articles for local consumption, construction and mining. Mining operations have been concentrated on the gold and silver deposits on the Pacific slopes, especially at the Monte del Aguacate and Montes de Oro mines and the Abangarez gold fields. Gold is the only mineral importantly mined (\$436,510 in 1934), but deposits of silver, manganese, mercury and sulphur exist. During the latter half of 1937 the discovery of rich and extensive manganese deposits in the Province of Guanacaste was reported and preparations for their exploitation are already under way. The mining industry is being encouraged and stimulated by the Government, which permits free importation of mining machinery, tools and other equipment required for mineral exploitation. Indications of petroleum have been found near Talamanca and Tilarán in the southern part of the country.

There are approximately sixty-five hundred industrial establishments in Costa Rica. Included among these are furniture factories and woodworking shops, which use such Costa Rican fine woods as mahogany, cedar and rosewood, almost exclusively. Other industrial lines are the manufacture of cigars and cigarettes, candles, cheese, lumber, starch, and brooms. Nearly all of these establishments are small, are located in or near the cities, and supply the local inhabitants.

TRANSPORTATION

There are sixteen rivers of considerable size in the Republic, several of which are navigable by small craft for some miles inland. The most important of these is the San Juan River and its tributaries, which are utilized for the transportation of natural products, small steamers and other vessels plying regularly between coastal points and interior settlements. This river, which flows along part of the northern boundary of Costa Rica, connects with Lake Nicaragua, situated in the Republic of Nicaragua.

Costa Rica has in actual operation about 450 miles of railways, including branches and sidings, all of 3' 6" gauge. The Costa Rica Railway is leased to the Northern, so that the system, having its focal point at Puerto Limón, is under a single management. The roads are well constructed with steel and iron bridges, suitable stations and sidetracks, and are maintained in

good condition. Various branches have been extended up and down the coast for the service of the banana industry. The main line or Costa Rica Railway leaves Puerto Limón, passing through Matina, Siquirres, Turrialba, Cartago and minor towns and, 103 miles from Limón, arrives at San José. The road is extended beyond San José through Heredia to Alajuela, 14 miles north of the capital.

The Pacific Electric Railway, built and owned by the government, extends from San José to Puntarenas, a distance of 73 miles. A daily passenger train is on the schedule of this road, the entire trip taking about four hours.

At Puerto Limón, terminal facilities are modern and excellent. There are two wharves, with accommodations for six large and two small vessels, and so equipped with track facilities that loading and unloading can be carried on directly from railroad car to steamer.

The Costa Rica Railway runs a daily passenger train between Puerto Limón and San José. The regular schedule on this route usually takes about six hours but special tourist trains make the journey in four hours. These trains are well equipped and many American tourists visit San José after seeing the Panama Canal, there being frequent ships in operation between Colón and Limón. There is an extension down the Atlantic coast from the Bananito River near Puerto Limón.

Various steamship lines operate weekly passenger and freight services from New York to Limón and return, calling en route at Havana and Colón. There is also weekly service between New Orleans and Limón via Puerto Cortez, Puerto Barrios, and Belize. There is weekly steamship service between Boston and Limón and irregular sailings between Limón and Mobile and Galveston. Weekly and fortnightly steamship services are maintained out of the port of Puntarenas connecting with the Pacific ports of the United States.

Within the last few years considerable progress has been made in extending highway mileage in Costa Rica. The gradual introduction of automobiles, busses and trucks for passenger and freight service has been a strong argument for better roads, and highway building is becoming an increasingly important factor in the development of Costa Rica's transportation system. The best motor roads are those connecting the important highland cities. The Carretera Central runs from Cartago through San José and on to Naranjo. From San José highways also run to Heredia, Alajuela and Grecia. There are more than 1,800 miles of roads in Costa Rica, other than city streets, which include the roads throughout the coffee and banana districts, mainly used to transport produce to the railroads. Motor vehicles in circulation in the Republic are estimated at about three thousand, comprising passenger cars, trucks and busses.

COSTA RICAN PINEAPPLES

One of the country's products not so well known in other parts of the world as coffee and bananas is pineapples; those grown in Costa Rica are sweet and of good size.



SHELLING COCOA PODS

The cocoa bean is an important export of the country; in recent years extensive plantings have been made on lands of the Atlantic coastal region formerly devoted to bananas.





SCENE ON A LARGE FARM OR "FINCA" IN GUANACASTE PROVINCE

Costa Rica, like other countries, has profited by the development of aviation. In 1930, the President of the Republic issued a decree establishing a government division of aviation. This office, which is under the supervision of the Department of Public Safety, has formulated air traffic rules and regulations and has charge of all matters relating to military and civil aviation in the country. Costa Rica receives and dispatches from San José, Limón, Puntarenas and other air bases many of the planes engaged in inter-American flying services from eastern and western cities of the United States, from Mexico, Panama and other nearby countries. Costa Rica, therefore, may be reached by air travel more quickly than ever before, while mail and light freight services are also being liberally patronized. The Empresa Nacional de Transportes Aéreos and the Aerovías Nacionales operate daily between the most important Costa Rican cities. At present there are around twenty landing fields in the country, public and private.

FINANCE

The last few years have witnessed improvements in Costa Rica's internal financial situation, illustrated by increased receipts from customs duties, the liquor monopoly, railway revenues, export taxes, and others. Total revenues

have shown increases since 1933. At the same time expenditures also have increased. From 1934 to 1935, revenues rose from 24,283,000 to 27,167,000 colones, accompanied by expenditures, however, which increased from 24,102,000 to 31,577,000 colones. Thus in 1934 a slight surplus was available, but a greater increase in expenditures than in receipts in 1935 caused a considerable deficit in the latter year. In 1936 budgetary receipts and expenditures were more in line, totaling 34,503,000 and 32,443,000 colones respectively. However, other expenditures reduced the surplus to a deficit of slightly more than half a million colones. For 1937, budgetary expenditures were fixed at 32,598,000 and receipts were estimated at 32,835,000 colones.

The following table illustrates the trend in both the external and internal public debts since 1930, given in thousands of units of currency.

Year	EXTERNAL		INTERNAL		TOTAL	
	Colones	Dollars	Colones	Dollars	Colones	Dollars
1930 ¹	68,341	17,085	25,753	6,438	94,094	23,623
1931	74,406	18,601	27,417	6,854	101,823	25,455
1932	77,480	19,370	30,957	7,739	108,437	27,109
1933	83,693	20,923	30,819	7,704	114,512	28,627
1934	83,678	20,919	31,822	7,956	115,500	28,875
1935	83,678	20,919	36,250	9,062	119,928	29,981
1936 ²	104,169	26,042	37,701	9,425	141,870	35,467

It will be noted that the trend has been steadily upward in both. The colón has been converted into the U. S. dollar at an arbitrary rate of four colones to the dollar, which while not giving a completely accurate picture, nevertheless presents an approximate idea of the debt in U. S. currency. The average uncontrolled rate of the colón in U. S. currency in 1935 and 1936 was \$.1612 and \$.1618, respectively, the controlled rate \$.163 and \$.162.

United States direct investments in Costa Rica in 1933 were estimated at \$20,000,000.³ At the end of 1936, the value of funds of the Costa Rican national debt held in the United States was calculated at \$11,000,000.⁴

¹ Debt figures from 1930 to 1935 inclusive, from Foreign Bondholders Protective Council, Annual Report, 1936.

² La Gaceta, San José, May 4, 1937.

³ The Balance of International Payments of the United States in 1933.

⁴ Finance Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce.



VIRRILLA BRIDGE ON THE COSTA RICA RAILWAY WHICH CONNECTS SAN JOSE WITH
PUERTO LIMON, CHIEF PORT ON THE ATLANTIC COAST



SECTION OF THE HIGHWAY LEADING FROM COSTA RICA'S CAPITAL CITY TO PAN
AMERICAN AIRWAY'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT SANTA ANA

EDUCATION

The concentration of population in the highlands of Costa Rica favors a centralized and efficient school system at the head of which is the Secretary of Public Education. Technical supervisors carry on the administrative work with the aid of provincial and district boards of education, there being 640 of the latter. The local boards, whose members are appointed by the municipal authorities, are specially charged with the maintenance of buildings and equipment, hygiene, attendance and statistics. The allotment for education,



"REPUBLICA DE CHILE" SCHOOL IN SAN JOSE
Costa Rica ranks among the leading nations of the world in public education

which amounts to more than 20 percent of the national budget, represents a per capita cost of \$1.25, as compared with a per capita cost of fourteen cents for the army.

Elementary education is free and compulsory for children between the ages of 7 and 14 years. All public and private elementary schools are under the direction of the Council of Primary Education, presided over by the Secretary of Education. The public elementary schools number 606 with an enrollment of 54,750 children, nearly 68 percent of which are located in the three provinces of San José, Heredia, and Alajuela. Teachers are given considerable liberty in adapting the official course of study to local conditions, and enjoy privileges,

such as exemption from military duty except in case of war, which indicate the high regard in which the teaching profession is held. A number of elementary schools have recently opened kindergarten classes, but in this respect the most important work is still being done by the preschool section of the normal school at Heredia, and by such private institutions as the Escuela Maternal.

Graduates of the elementary school may enter the School of Fine Arts, the School of Agriculture, the School of Commerce, the Normal School or any of the four *liceos* or secondary schools, namely, the Liceo de Costa Rica for boys, the Colegio Superior de Señoritas, and the two coeducational schools located in Alajuela and Cartago. These institutions enrol slightly more than 2,000 students and grant a certificate of *bachiller* at the end of the five-year course.

Instruction on the secondary level is also offered by a modern, coeducational normal school at Heredia. Students completing the five-year course are permitted to continue for two years, at the end of which they may receive the certificate of *maestro normal*. An additional two-year course leads to the degree of *profesor normal*. Professional courses include psychology, educational administration, general methods and practice teaching. Nearly 500 students are enrolled in the Normal School, which is provided with 60 scholarships by the national government.

The School of Commerce at Limón and similar private establishments in Alajuela and San José offer opportunities for commercial education. The National School of Fine Arts provides courses in design, painting and sculpture. Professional training is limited to law, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, engineering and agriculture. University degrees in other fields are generally sought abroad, and in this connection the national government observes a liberal policy of scholarships for promising students.

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THE AMERICAN CITY SERIES

No. 6-A

SAN JOSÉ

COSTA RICA'S INTERESTING
CAPITAL



L. S. ROWE - - - - - Director General

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1936

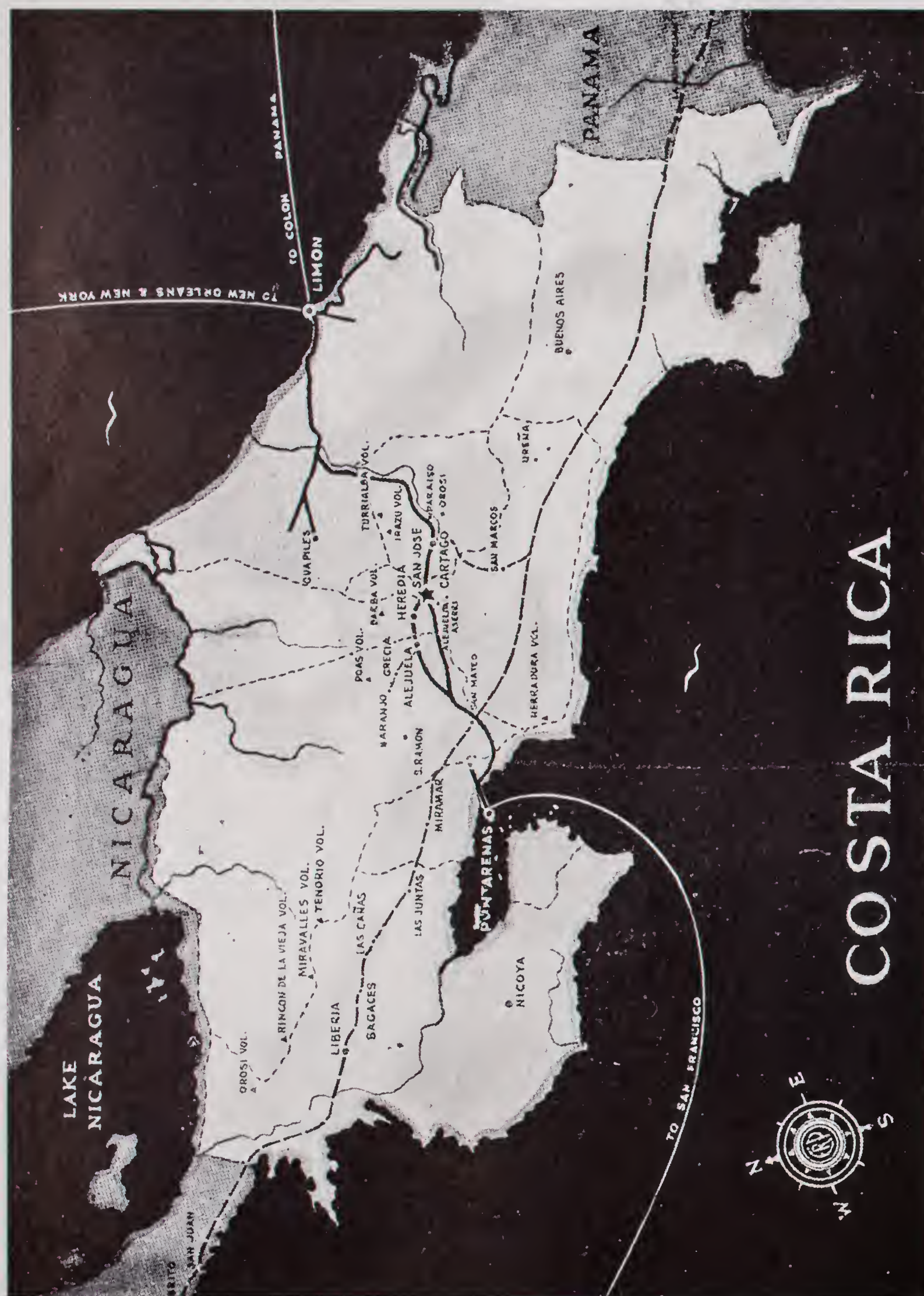
SAN JOSÉ



HISTORICAL SKETCH

ALTHOUGH Columbus on his fourth voyage sailed the waters bordering on what is now Costa Rica and attempted to found a settlement, this region was the last part of Central America to be conquered by the Spaniards. According to the writings of Ricardo Fernández Guardia, a Spaniard by the name of Juan de Cavollón was given the task of conquering that "rich coast," or Nuevo Cartago, for the Crown of Spain. This man, a lawyer by profession, associated with him in the enterprise a Spanish priest named Juan de Estrada Rávago. Two expeditions, it was decided, should be formed and proceed southward. Rávago set out from Granada on Lake Nicaragua in 1560; in his expedition he had about 70 Spanish soldiers and many Indians. Cavallón in 1561 moved southward along the Pacific slope of Nicaragua; his force comprised 90 soldiers, quantities of military equipment, horses and cows.

We need not dwell here on the innumerable hardships that these expeditions encountered in their march of conquest. One significant fact stands out in their campaigns and that is the small number of Indians inhabiting this part of Central America compared to the thickly settled areas in Guatemala. According to Guardia, already quoted, Nuevo Cartago or Costa Rica had only about 27,000 Indians when the Spaniards started their conquest. These were of five different tribes, which were scattered about the country in small villages. It appears that they could not have offered the resistance that the Spaniards encountered in Guatemala.



Courtesy National Tourist Board.

THIS MAP SHOWS THE LOCATION OF SAN JOSÉ, APPROXIMATELY IN THE HEART OF THE NATION

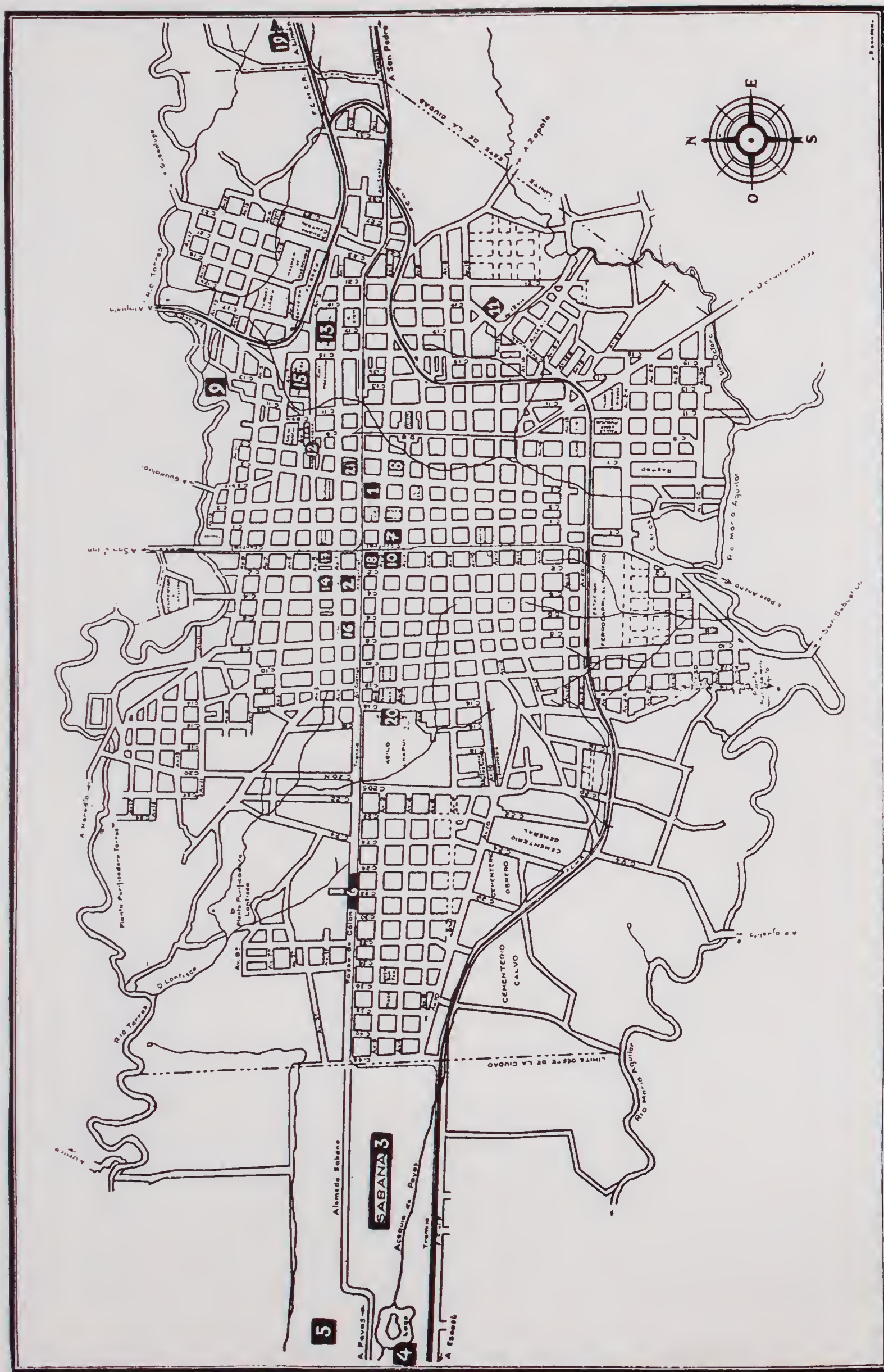
Railway lines lead to both oceans while San José is connected with the nearby cities of Cartago, Heredia, Alajuela and Naranjo by modern highways.

Extending in an east and west line in the heart of Costa Rica are the largest cities of the country. Beginning in the east stands Cartago, at an altitude of 4,760 feet. Between Cartago and San José, 13 miles apart, is the continental divide in the mountain range, which extends from northwest to southeast across the country. El Alto, 5,137 feet, is the highest point on the road. Cartago then lies east of the divide, while San José, Heredia, Alajuela, all connected by a modern highway, are situated slightly lower on the western slope of the mountains.

San José, about which we are more directly concerned, stands in a valley of 2,000 square kilometers, with mountains in the distance. The city's altitude (3,868 feet) is about 1,000 feet lower than Cartago. It is not an old city, the seat of government having been moved thither from Cartago in 1823. The latter, however, was founded by Juan Vazquez de Coronado in 1563. From that time onward Cartago was the seat of government; and in 1565 Coronado was appointed governor of the town and of the country then known as Nueva Cartago.

San José being located at the altitude of 3,868 feet above sea level is always agreeable. It is in a region of perpetual Springtime, where foliage and flowers are continually bright and abundant.

Costa Rica, let us remember, is about half as large as the State of Pennsylvania, or 23,000 square miles; rail access from either the Atlantic or Pacific oceans lies through tropical and picturesque mountain scenery. The length of the railway that spans the country from ocean to ocean is 172 miles. The Limon-San José section is 104 miles; the Puntarenas-San José section is 68 miles. From either Atlantic or Pacific port to the capital the journey may be said to be, first, a tropical delight; this is because both roads traverse miles of lowlands



Courtesy National Tourist Board

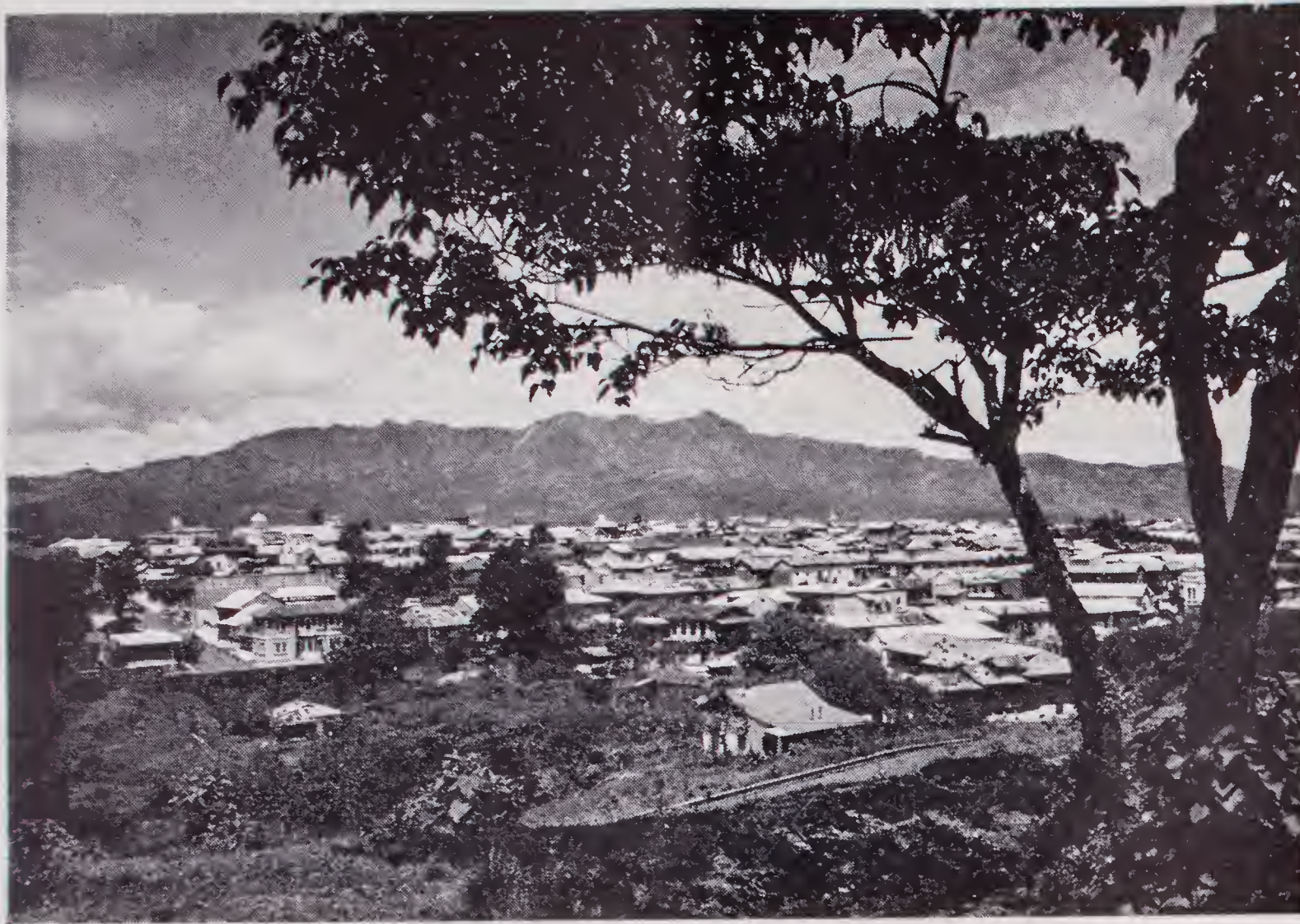
GENERAL PLAN OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSÉ

before beginning the up-grades of the mountains. The second part of the trip, in either instance, is made through highlands dominated by mountains and towering peaks. The mountains being comparatively near the Pacific, that road more quickly begins the grades that lead to San José.

From Limon on the Caribbean the route of the railroad follows the course of the river Revantazon. Through this region the banana plant had its greatest commercial development, enterprises that made Costa Rica for many years the first banana-producing country of the world. The road marks a line of great undertaking; in few, if any other countries, have railroad builders encountered greater hardships than in the Costa Rican lowlands, where toil under tropical sun and rains decimated laborers, many of whom were contract workers recruited from islands of the Caribbean.

After years of toil and heavy expense, beginning in 1871, this, the Northern Railway of Costa Rica, was finally completed to San José. The original contract was given to Henry Meiggs, who built the highest railway in the world in Peru, the Oroya line. But most of the executive work in Costa Rica fell on the shoulders of the Keith brothers of New York. Several of these brothers succumbed to ravages of the jungle while Minor C. Keith, the younger, lived to see the completion of the great undertaking; later he became the father of the banana industry.

The Pacific Railway was started inland from Puntarenas in the early seventies. This was the original undertaking of the then President Guardia, who obtained construction equipment and supplies from England. The two roads did not meet at San José until 1910. Today the Pacific Railway is operated by electric power generated in the mountains through which the route lies.



GENERAL VIEW OF A SECTION OF SAN JOSÉ



LOOKING DOWN PASEO COLON

On the left may be seen some of the new chalets that are being erected along this boulevard.

The journey to the Costa Rican Capital, whether it be from the Atlantic or the Pacific is not only through miles of natural wonderlands but if the traveler cares to delve into the historic phase of roadbuilding he has here worthwhile examples of engineering skill and human endurance.

As will be seen from the map on another page, the plan of San José is that of streets and avenues crossing at right angles and running north and south and east and west. The broad Paseo de Colon named in honor of the Great Discoverer is the chief thoroughfare connecting the heart of the city with La Sabana. At about the halfway point stands a high obelisk dedicated to the memory of Columbus. Within recent years avenues, streets and sidewalks have been modernly paved and the use of motor vehicles of all kinds has become popular. But still the picturesque carts are to be seen.

While many of the older residences are of the usual Spanish-American style of architecture of one and two story structures the more recent buildings are higher. Some of them, like the Grand Hotel Costa Rica, are four or more stories. Another attractive feature of San José is the number of fine ornamental trees that stand in the numerous parks or border the streets, such as the beautiful trees that adorn Paseo de Colon. Needless to say, the capital city enjoys abundant electric light service supplied by the harnessing of water power in the suburbs. Electric lights and electric signs illumine streets and parks at night.

Central Park in the heart of the city is always popular with the people of San José. Once a week in the evening a military band gives a concert which is attended by hundreds of citizens. But once a fortnight still larger crowds are attracted to this park. On these Sundays at noon the National Lottery holds its public drawings. The receipts from this institution are

devoted to charity and particularly to the maintenance of hospitals. Sometimes a ten-cent investment in a ticket may return as much as \$20,000!

Morazan Park is another popular outdoor rendezvous where bi-weekly concerts are enjoyed. In the National Park stands a monument to the five "Sister Republics of Central America"



HEADQUARTERS OF THE SAN JOSÉ FIRE DEPARTMENT

recalling the period when William Walker the filibuster sought to set up a government. In Orchid Garden, another park, there is a display of about 200 varieties of orchids blooming against a background of other flowers. Bolivar Park, named in honor of the Great Liberator, is the city's zoological garden. It is located on the outskirts of the capital and displays an interesting collection of native fauna such as pumas, monkeys, serpents and other denizens captured in Central American jungles.

Every visitor to San José will be interested in seeing the general market in the heart of the city. Here one finds all kinds of fruits and vegetables known to the tropics, most of them delicious and different from those of northern latitudes. Native handicraft in its varied branches is here offered for sale and usually at proportionately low prices.

Hunting and horseback-riding are a favorite pastime of foreigners resident in Costa Rica. Many and pleasant are the excursions frequently made by residents or visitors to such scenic spots as Aserri and Orosi and to the Irazu and Poas volcanoes.

The trip to the latter is one of the most interesting and thrilling experiences one can imagine. Parties are usually made up of 20 or 30 people of both sexes. The ride up the mountain generally starts from San José about midnight, when the moon is full. Young women carry guitars, and up the winding trail, one minute in the brilliant moonlight, the next in a dark valley as the party passes over precipitous and tortuous trails, one hears the echo of the songs and laughter of those in front. Sometimes it happens that the horse of a young lady becomes tired and there is no lack of chivalrous offers from the willing men who resign themselves to walking for a while.

Arriving at the volcano about 5 in the morning is truly a wonderful experience. At this altitude of 10,000 feet above sea level there is a valley sparkling with frost, really the bed of an old crater, filled with fantastic black shapes which are the remains of an old forest. Passing over this depression one arrives at the brink of the crater. The view baffles description—a mighty yawning circle, a mile or more in diameter, a quarter of a mile deep, devoid of every vestige of vegetation, lined with cold grey rocks and massive boulders, and away at the bottom a murky, steaming lake of sulphurous mud which



OROSI FALLS MAY BE VISITED FROM SAN JOSÉ

This waterfall is magnificent and impressive. The drop is almost 150 feet perpendicular over solid rock.

ever and anon bubbles up and vomits into the cold motionless air immense volumes of steam and gas, truly the world's largest and most imposing geyser, and one of Nature's finest sights.

But this is not all. Before the morning clouds descend and envelop the spectator in well-nigh impenetrable fog he should travel yet farther, for another mile or so, to the crater lagoon. This occupies an extinct crater about the same size as the active one; in the course of centuries its once arid walls have become covered with dense green foliage. The waters are crystal clear, because of the sulphur they contain, and the lake itself, reflecting the clear blue of the sky overhead, appears like a rich sapphire in nature's own green setting.

Unfortunately, one can not linger as long as one would like to enjoy to the full the beauty of the spot, for the return has to be made. On arriving in town once more, although tired and dusty, one has a deep sense of satisfaction at having viewed the mighty Poas.

Other interesting regions worthy of a visit are the Orosi Valley and its coffee plantations, within comfortable riding distance of San José; Guanacaste, with its vast cattle pastures and cowboys, reminiscent of the "wild West" of the United States.

CULTURAL ASPECTS

Costa Rica's schools are practically all maintained by the Government. Free education being obligatory, this is one of the heaviest items in the nation's annual budget. All education is of a high standard. Many boys graduated from San José's high schools have been welcomed at American and European universities, where they have gained the highest honors, particularly in the realms of medicine, engineering, architecture,



ANOTHER VIEW OF PASEO COLON SHOWING COLUMBUS MONUMENT



THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, SAN JOSÉ

This building, given by Carnegie, was erected in 1907 to house the Central American Court of Justice.

law, and agriculture. The law college in San José is of high repute and many foreign students come to take advantage of its courses, and also those of the normal school for teachers in the city of Heredia.

The education of girls is also on a high plane. The Colegio para Señoritas and the Manuel Aragón Continuation School give special attention to commercial careers for girls. Some American parents living in the Canal Zone send their children to Sion Convent.

Sport goes hand in hand with education in Costa Rica. A love of football seems to be the natural heritage of the youth of the country. Many amateur teams have gained victories over the more seasoned players of other Latin American countries, and Costa Ricans are now generally considered the champions of Central America. Tennis, golf, swimming, running, baseball, etc., also have their place and are slowly but surely gaining in popularity. Every year a marathon is run over the railroad track between San José and Puntarenas, a distance of 68 miles. The start is usually made at 3 in the afternoon. The first arrivals reach the coast between 5 and 6 the next morning after having run all night with the aid of an electric torch. The first prize for this race is only \$25 in cash, which is a minor matter for the winner compared with the honor of gaining the medal which goes with it.

San José has a museum containing a priceless collection of Central American pottery; a collection of Maya gold idols; a theater that cost a million dollars and really looks it; and a new hotel which delights all travelers.

In the evenings, when the day's work is over, the younger people of both sexes attend the band concerts, or *retretas* as they are called, in the public parks. A fine band plays delightful music while the young men and maidens amuse themselves



PLAZA JUAN RAFAEL MORA



MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE GRAN HOTEL

This fine hostelry was opened to the public a few years ago.

by parading round and round the park and engaging in innocent flirtations.

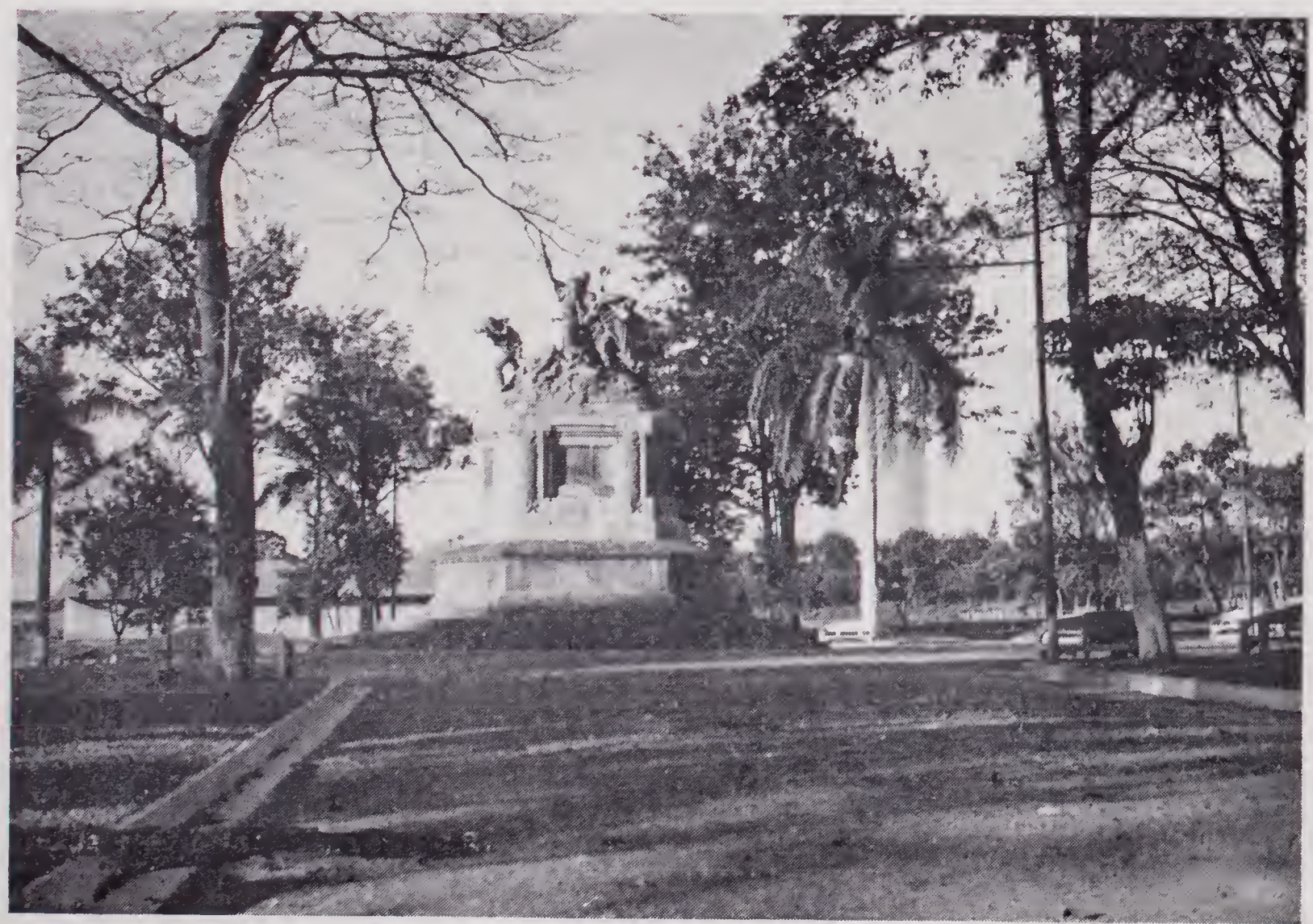
On Sunday the bulk of the population goes to church in the morning, while the afternoon is given over to sport and excursions into the country. In the evenings the people patronize the theater and the cinemas, where the latest talking pictures are to be seen. After the theater, the clubs and hotels are filled to overflowing as the Josefinos, as the people of San José are affectionately called, exchange gossip and greetings over their refreshments. All in all, there is a delightfully enjoyable life completely free from the hustle and bustle which is the bane of the big cities of America and Europe.

CLIMATE

In the lowlands the usual high temperatures of the Tropics are naturally prevalent, but as one advances into the interior, with the elevation rapidly increasing, the temperature falls considerably. By the time the central plateau is reached the climate is moderate and pleasant; in fact, it may be compared with late spring in the temperate zone. This condition is more or less constant; the variation in temperature over the whole year at San José runs between 50° F. and 70° F., with an occasional hot day reaching 80° F. or 85° F. Thus, contrary to the northerner's idea of customs in the Tropics, the Costa Rican does not run around in a white suit, perspiring visibly the whole day through; instead, he dresses in the same kind of clothing that Americans or Englishmen back home wear and often finds an overcoat a welcome addition in the evenings. The reader, if he plans to visit Costa Rica, should take this as a warning and not leave his heavy clothing behind. White tropical suits and palm-beach clothing are out of place in the highlands of Costa Rica. Not infrequently, American and



THE BEAUTIFUL HOME OF THE UNION CLUB



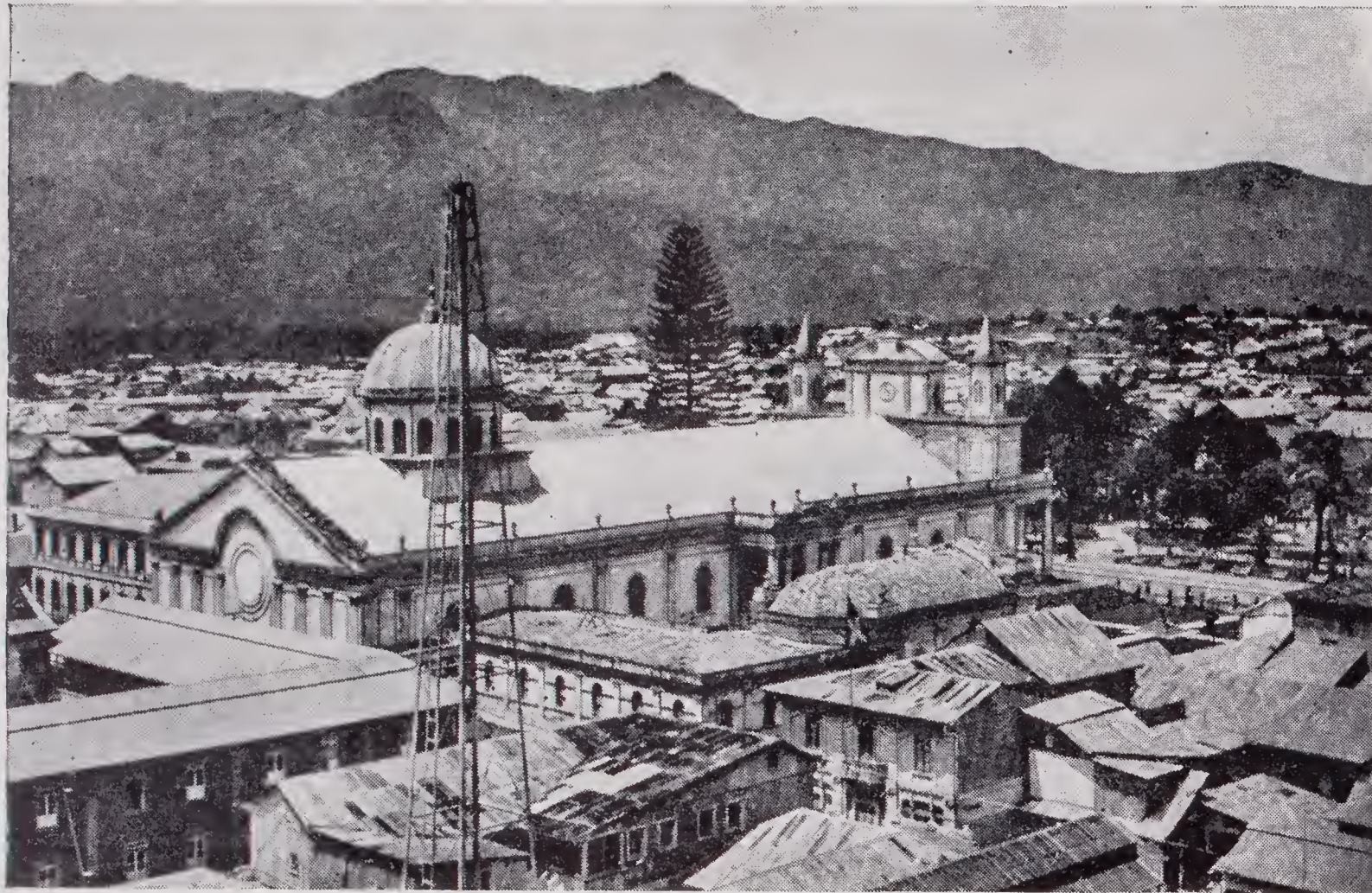
A SECTION OF THE NATIONAL PARK

European tourists, in the belief that in the Tropics all is hot from the seacoast to the snow line, visit San José wearing the white clothes and African helmets that might be very useful on the coast but which, in the capital, only serve to draw from street urchins such derisive inquiries as "How many lions have you shot to-day, Mister?" As the evening draws on these white-clad tourists begin to shiver and to beg or borrow an overcoat.

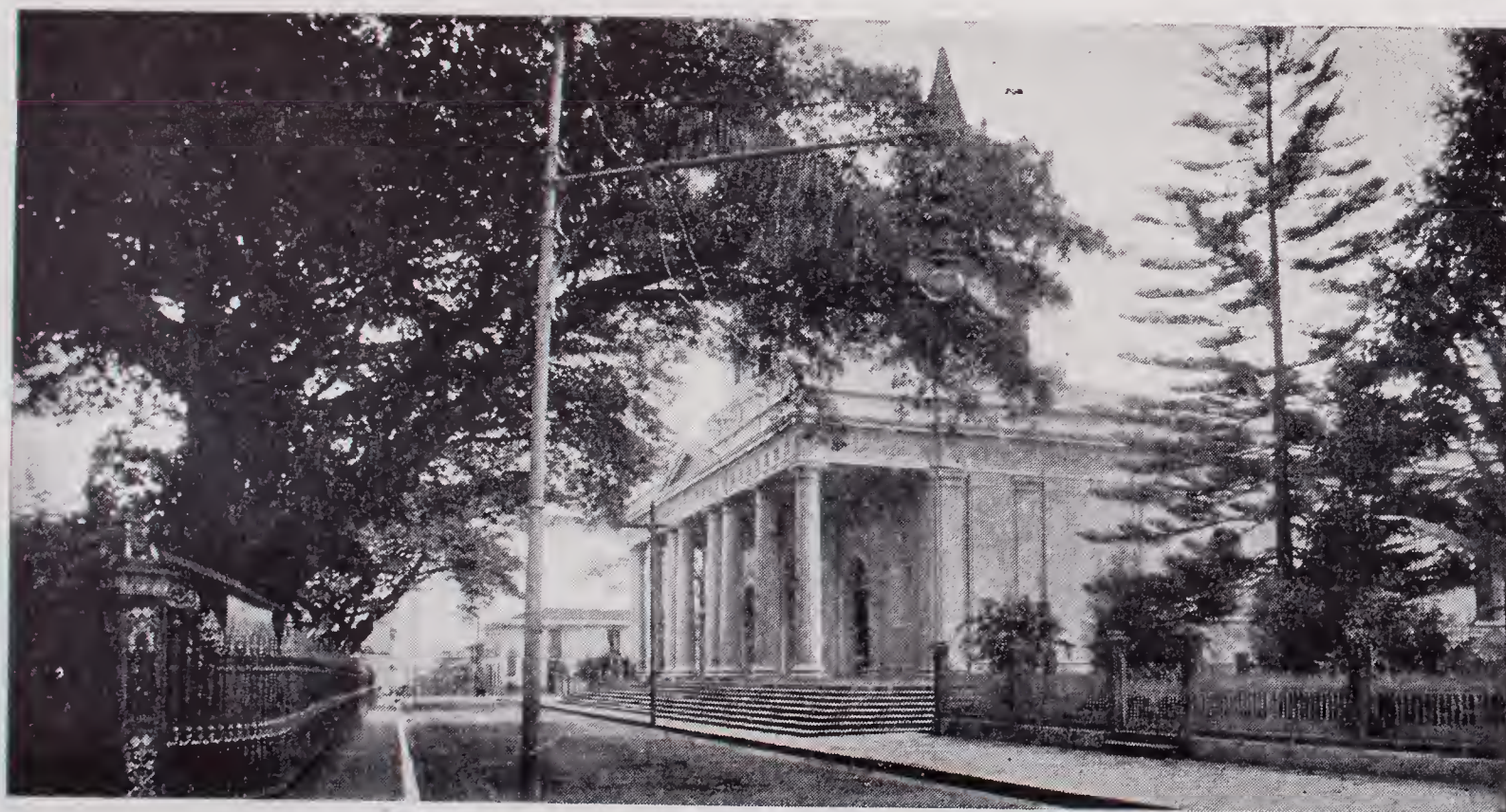
Here it is worth mentioning that at the many popular dances and other social functions which are a feature of Costa Rican life the tuxedo or "smoking" suit is often *de rigueur*. It is therefore advisable for men who intend to stay in Costa Rica for sometime to bring their black clothes, because they will find that society is hospitable, and for this reason they will have opportunity to dress for dinner in the same way as at home.

BENEVOLENCE

Costa Rica, like all other countries, has its quota of mendicants, orphans, insane, and other unfortunates who have a claim on the charity of others. In this connection it is worth while mentioning that the Government and various charity organizations maintain fine institutions for the care of the needy. Chief among these are the famous Chapui Hospital for the insane with a capacity of 500 patients (it may be added, incidentally, that it is pictured on one of Costa Rica's postage stamps); the hospital of San Juan de Dios, capable of caring for 1,100 patients at a time; the asylum for incurables; the home for the aged; orphanages for both boys and girls; the tuberculosis sanatorium high in the mountains; the Buen Pastor Institute for the gentle but strict correction of young girls and women; the permanent school farm for under-



LOOKING ACROSS THE HOUSE-TOPS OF SAN JOSÉ



THE STATELY CATHEDRAL

nourished children; the Gota de Leche ("Drop of Milk") for the distribution of free milk to the babies of the poor, and the free kitchens for providing meals to other children.

One of the wonders of Costa Rica is its flora. Flowers of every variety are found in profusion everywhere; almost every home, whether it be that of a rich coffee planter or of the humblest peon on his estate, has a wealth of flowers in its garden. Costa Rica has several hundred varieties of orchids, including some of the rarest known to man, and the orchid lover prepared to spend a few weeks in the country will find much to interest him. But not only tropical flowers grow in Costa Rica. Roses, lilies, and all the flowers of the Temperate Zone thrive in its mild climate. Strawberries, blackberries, mangoes, bananas, pineapples, alligator pears, papaws or papayas, melons, oranges, limes, lemons, and other rich and luscious fruits all grow side by side practically the year round in this country of perpetual spring. Full advantage of the natural floral wealth is taken for weddings, which may truthfully be described as pageants of beauty and flowers.

The police force of San José comprises a small but well trained body of men. Costa Ricans are among the most law-abiding people of the world, and serious crime is the exception; rarely does one hear of murder or holdups. Owing to the population's respect for law and order the army of the country is small and this fact is widely heralded. Costa Rica proudly boasts that there are more *school teachers* than soldiers—actually more schools. What other country can make a similar statement?

THE TOURIST

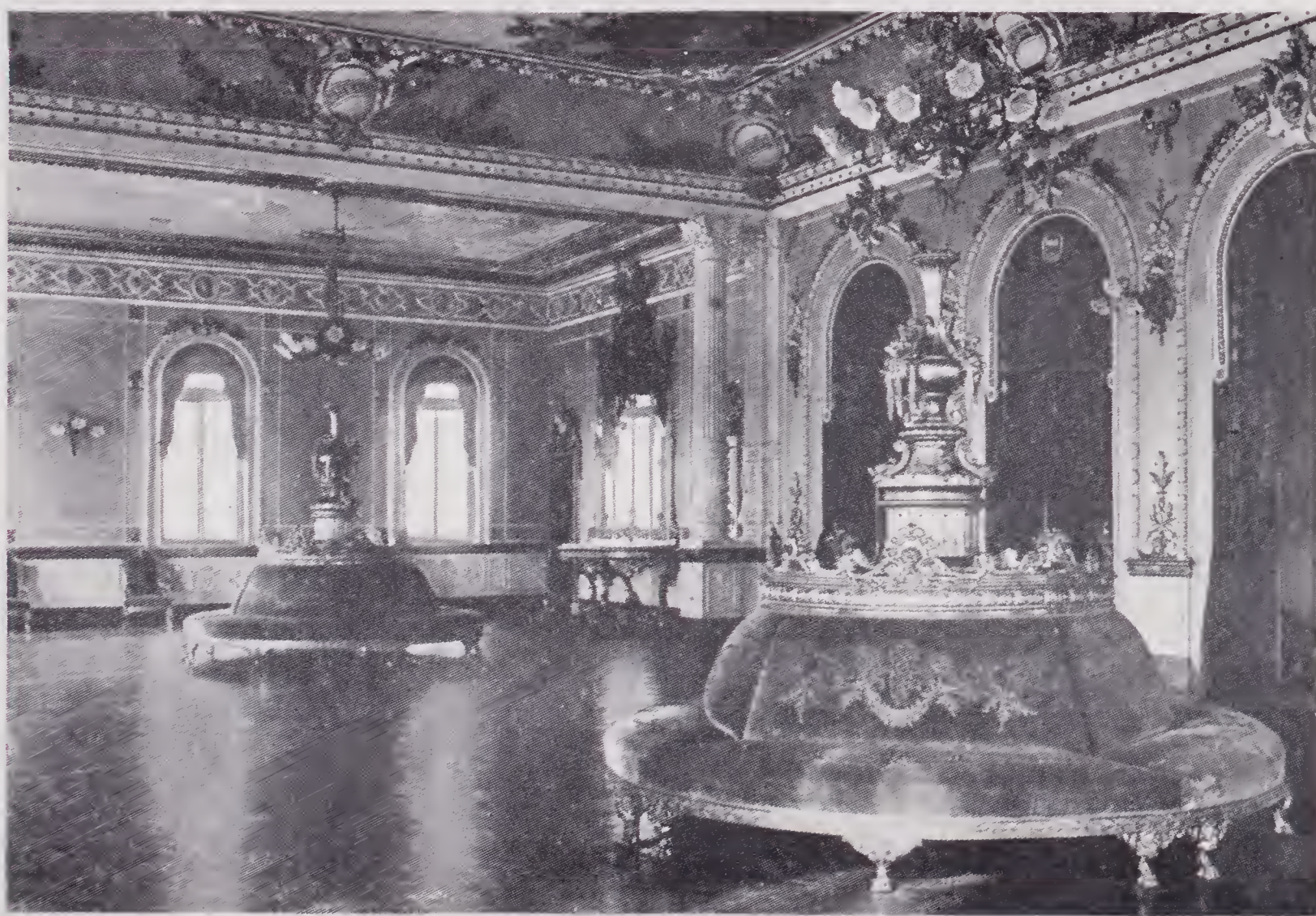
San José and Cartago became better known to the traveling public during construction days of the Panama Canal. Many a canal official and employe, feeling the heat of the Zone at times oppressive and needing rest in a cooler climate, journeyed to Costa Rica's mountains. The over-night steamer trip from Colon to Limon and a train ride of a day from Limon placed one at Cartago or San José. Either place afforded genuine relief from the tropical temperature of the Isthmus of Panama. It was not long before the families of Canal officials made prolonged stays in or near the Costa Rican capital. It was natural that tourists should find the delights of Costa Rica; steamship companies began sending excursion parties up to San José while ships discharged or loaded cargo at Limon. Since tourist travel became established more and more travelers have been availing themselves of the opportunity to visit Costa Rica.

A few years ago the National Tourist Board of Costa Rica was formed at San José and so active has this agency become that it is today a well recognized force in the upbuilding of the country and in opening many little-known wonders to the traveler. The president of this Board is the well-known and active Luis P. Jimenez. His efforts and those of his associates in giving publicity to Costa Rica and its innumerable attractions are bearing abundant fruit. One of the highly interesting pamphlets published by the Board is that entitled "*Sightseeing in Costa Rica.*" It is illustrated with entirely new photographs and its reading matter tells the stranger how to make the best use of each day spent in the country and the best way of seeing everything possible in a short stay.



DRYING COFFEE NEAR SAN JOSÉ

Of great interest to the foreigner are the various processes in preparing the country's chief product for market.



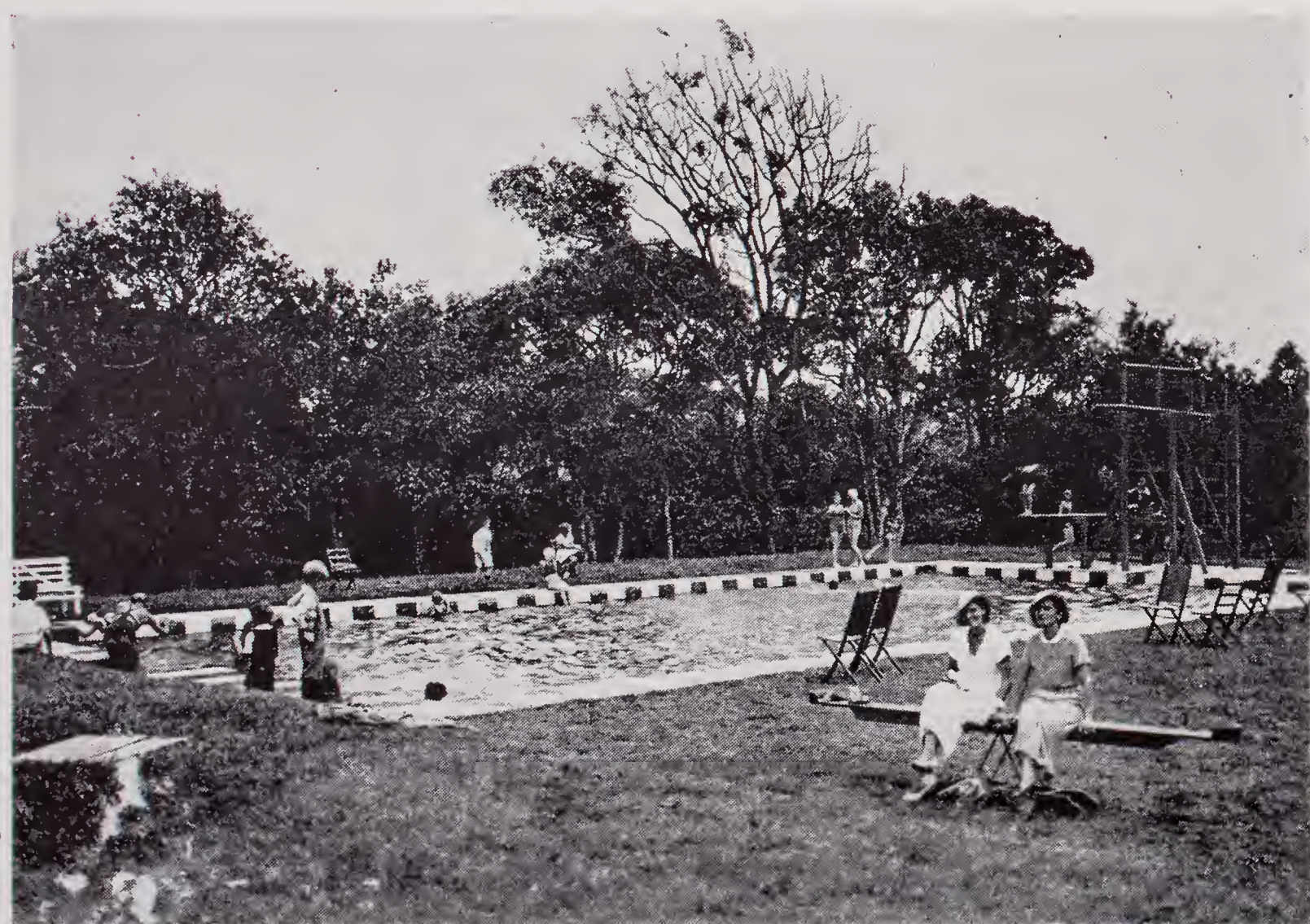
FOYER OF THE NATIONAL THEATER

Important social events of the Costa Rican capital are held in this splendid theater.



AVIATION FIELD

San José lies directly on airplane routes between the Americas.



SWIMMING POOL AT ONE OF THE CLUBS

Who are the people of Costa Rica today? This question is well, if briefly, answered by the late Wallace Thompson in his admirable work, "Rainbow Countries of Central America."* Writing on the make-up of the population, said this popular author: "Costa Rica has what is actually the only pure European population (except for the tiny aristocracies) between the Río Grande at the northern Mexican border and Uruguay beyond the equator in South America. And this under the almost direct rays of the tropical sun!

"Racially the Costa Ricans are unique in Latin America in another respect, for they are not only of pure European stock, as Chile, Uruguay and Argentina are, but they are Spanish only, which the great South American white populations are not. They are, in addition, of three distinct and significant Spanish origins, Galicia, Aragon and Biscay. The *Gallegos*, peaceful workers and farmers, with fixed and provincial ideas but of stolid energy, give character to the workers of the country, and the *Aragoneses* give a trait of firm business sense that appraises peace and prosperity at a more conventional value than do some other Americans. The *Vascos* or Basques are of that great race, not Latin but perhaps Celtic, which has given many artists and administrators to Spain and to France, and much of their enviable national character to Argentina, to Chile, and to other lands where they have settled thickly.

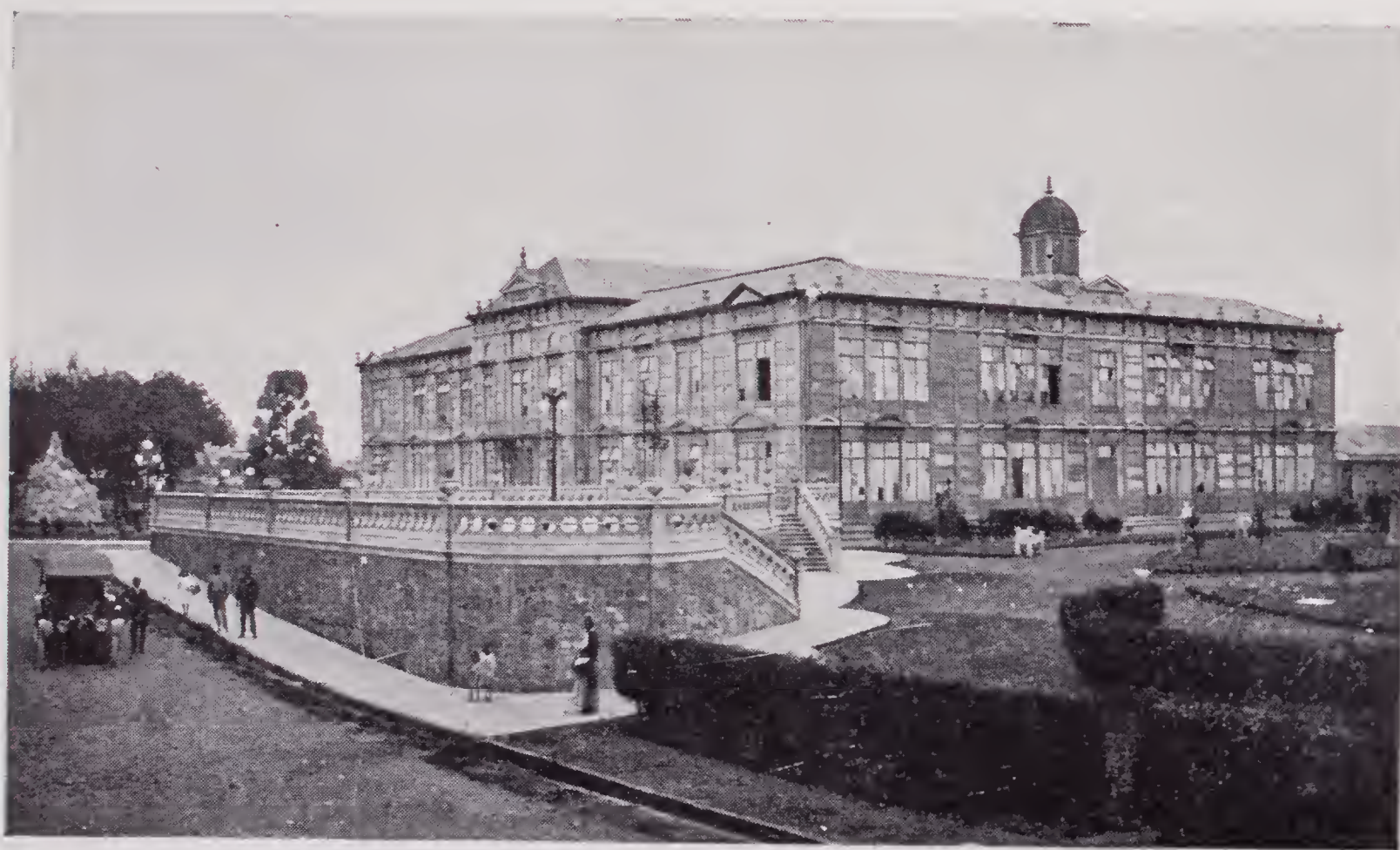
"As a whole, these serene, solemn workmen, in rags though they be, are proud and well-knit, never loose-jointed and lolling as too often is characteristic of the Tropics. They are self-respecting and respectful always, offended if you, as the social superior or as the stranger, do not take the honorable side of the walk, next to the wall, or if you, as a male, do not jump

*By Wallace Thompson. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. Quotations by permission of the publishers.

off into the street if it is necessary, to allow two ladies to walk easily along the pavement next that same wall their own men will willingly give to you."

MOTOR TRIPS FROM SAN JOSÉ

In one's motor tours in the region of San José, the predominance of the coffee plantations is noteworthy. Coffee is the



ELEMENTARY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SAN JOSÉ

country's leading crop and many trees stand within a short distance of the capital. Unlike most countries that produce this commodity on a huge scale, Costa Rican estates, as a rule, are small. Most of them range from 10 to 80 acres and the cultivation of the crop is done by large numbers of landowners rather than by the big corporation. In the highlands hereabout there is not the same need as in some other countries of nurturing the young trees by planting banana and other

quick growth to protect them. As soon as the coffee is a few feet high it seems to be strong enough to care for itself, so far as temperature is concerned. The small farms, however, are well protected with high hedges of palmetto, cactus or other flowering shrubs; these rows serve to some extent as wind breaks, while the rays of the tropical sun are tempered by the altitude.

All in all, the stranger on a trip outward from San José, whatever direction he takes, will be struck with the beauty of fields, streams, villages with red tile roofs, green foliage and if coffee be in blossom, the whiteness of the plantations.

BRIEF FACTS ABOUT SAN JOSÉ

San José has two morning and two afternoon newspapers. *El Diario de Costa Rica* and *La Tribuna* are issued in the morning. *La Prensa Libre* and *La Hora* are published in the afternoon. *La Tribuna* carries a section in English.

The National Lottery is a legalized institution. It operates for the benefit of local hospitals.

Most every foreign colony has its club where visitors are welcome.

The leading hotels of San José are: Gran Hotel Costa Rica, Gran Hotel Europa, Gran Hotel Continental, Gran Hotel Metropoli, Gran Hotel Rex, Pension Italiana Vicarioli.

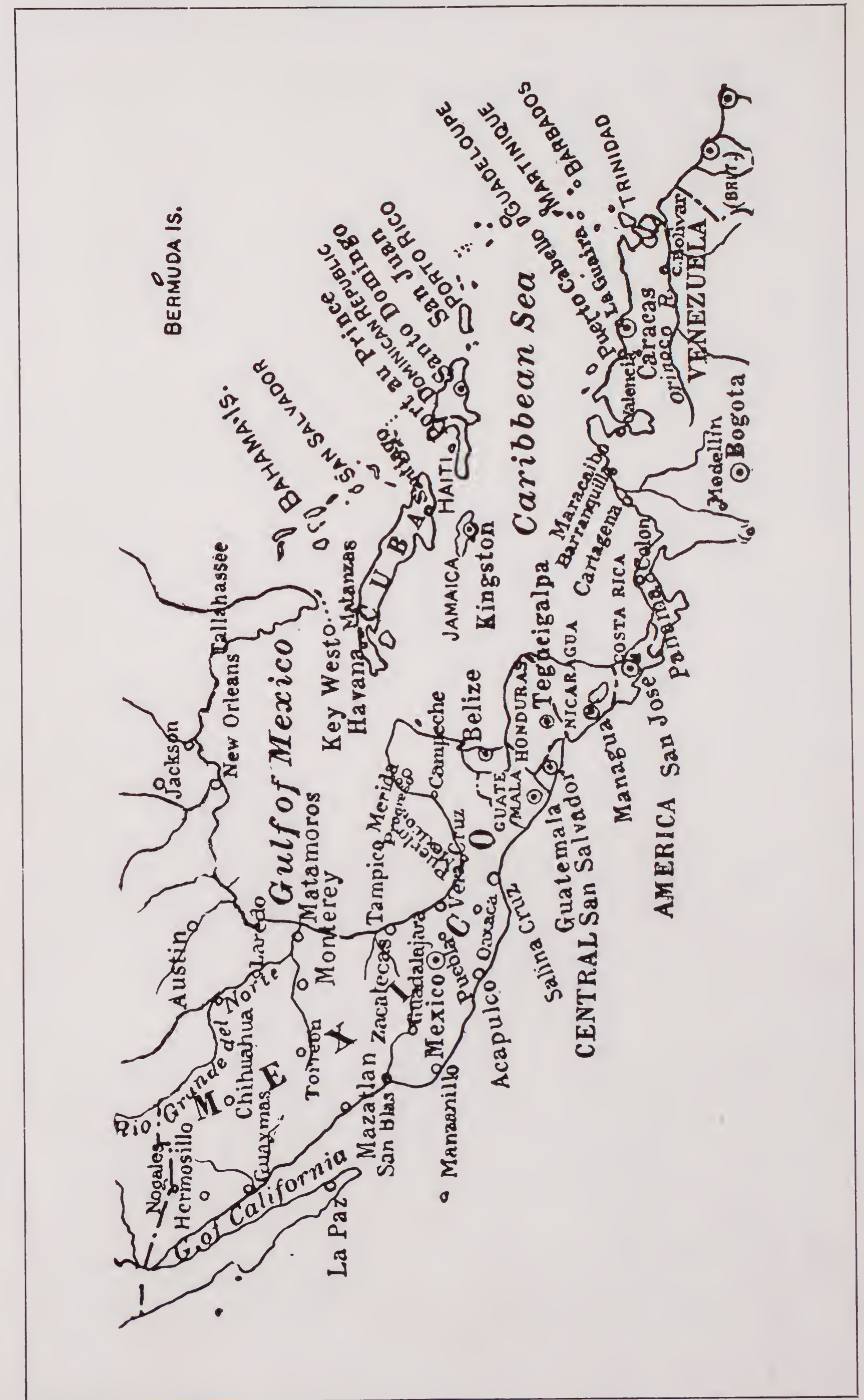
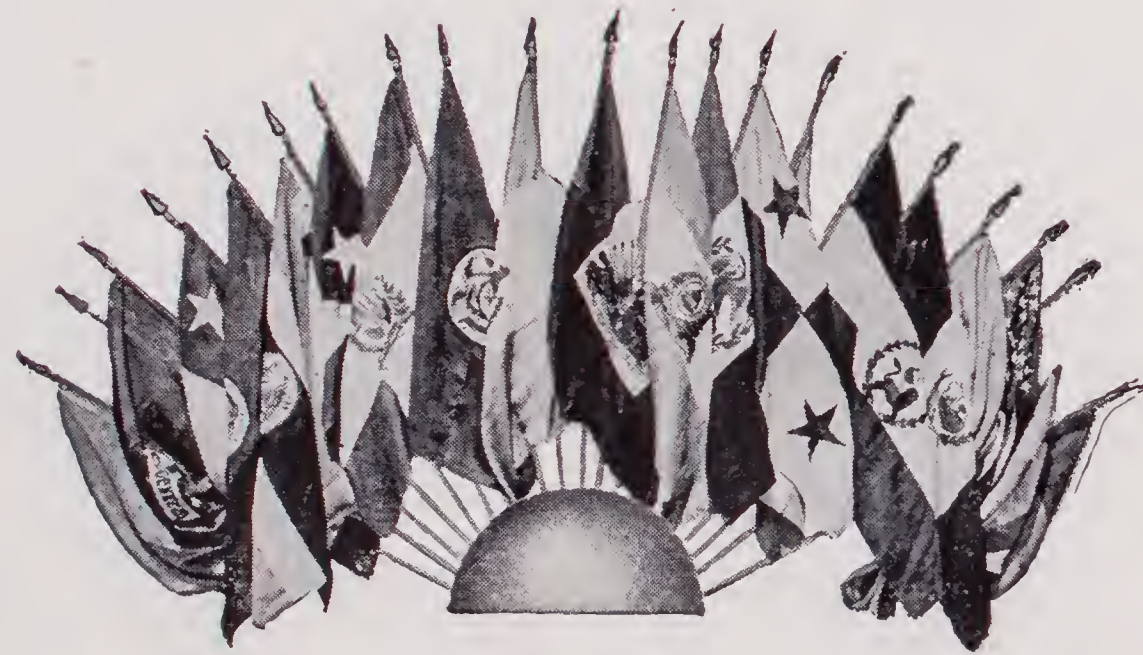
The National Tourist Board, which provides many courtesies to travelers, has its headquarters adjoining Gran Hotel Costa Rica.

San José is well equipped with taxis and other motor cars for hire. The usual rate is \$1.50 per hour for one to four persons. English-speaking chauffeurs are available.

El Rodeo is a dude ranch within easy reach of the city.

The average daily temperature in San José is 72° F.

Distance from San José to port of Puntarenas, 72 miles;
to port of Limón, 103 miles.



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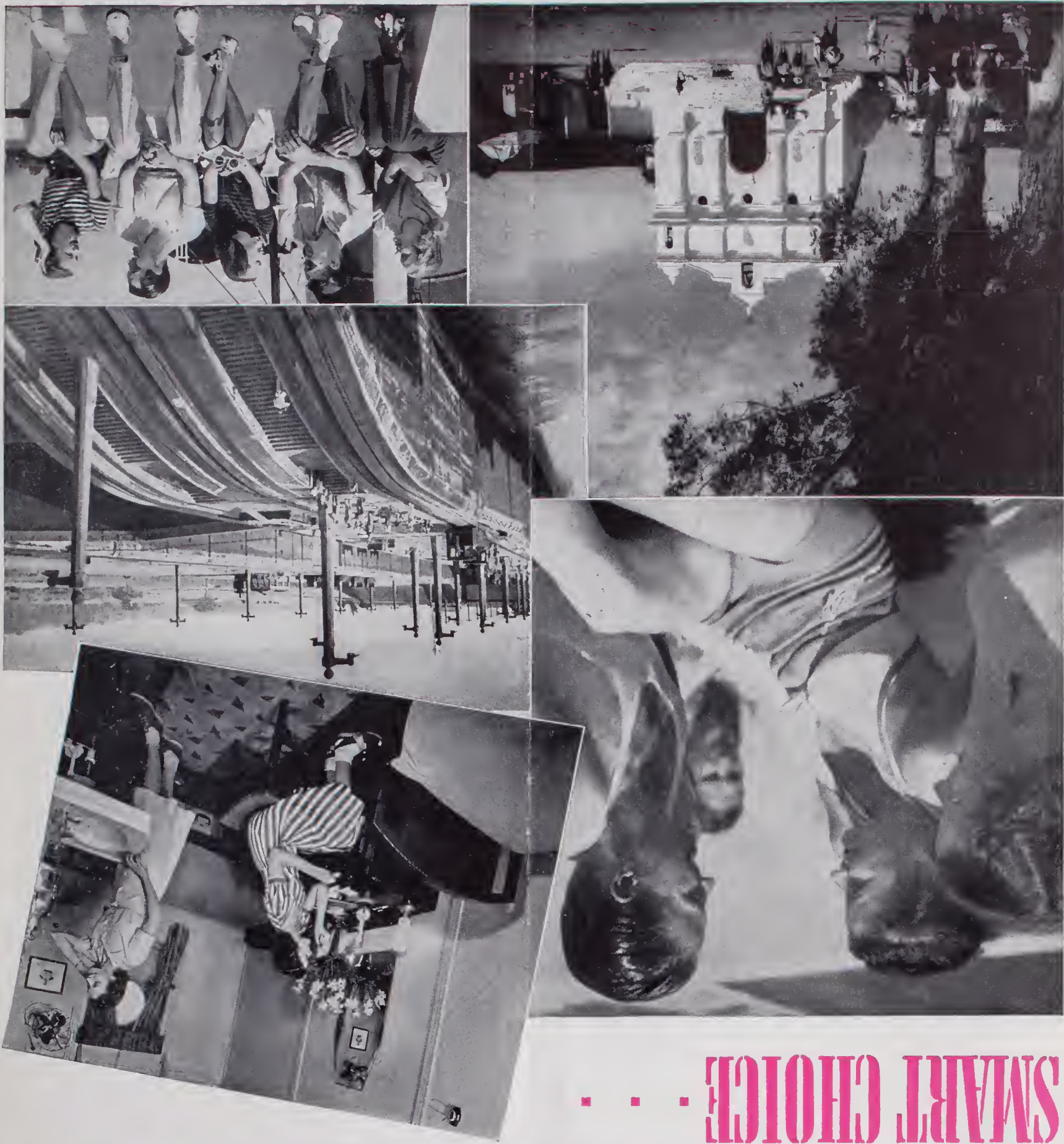
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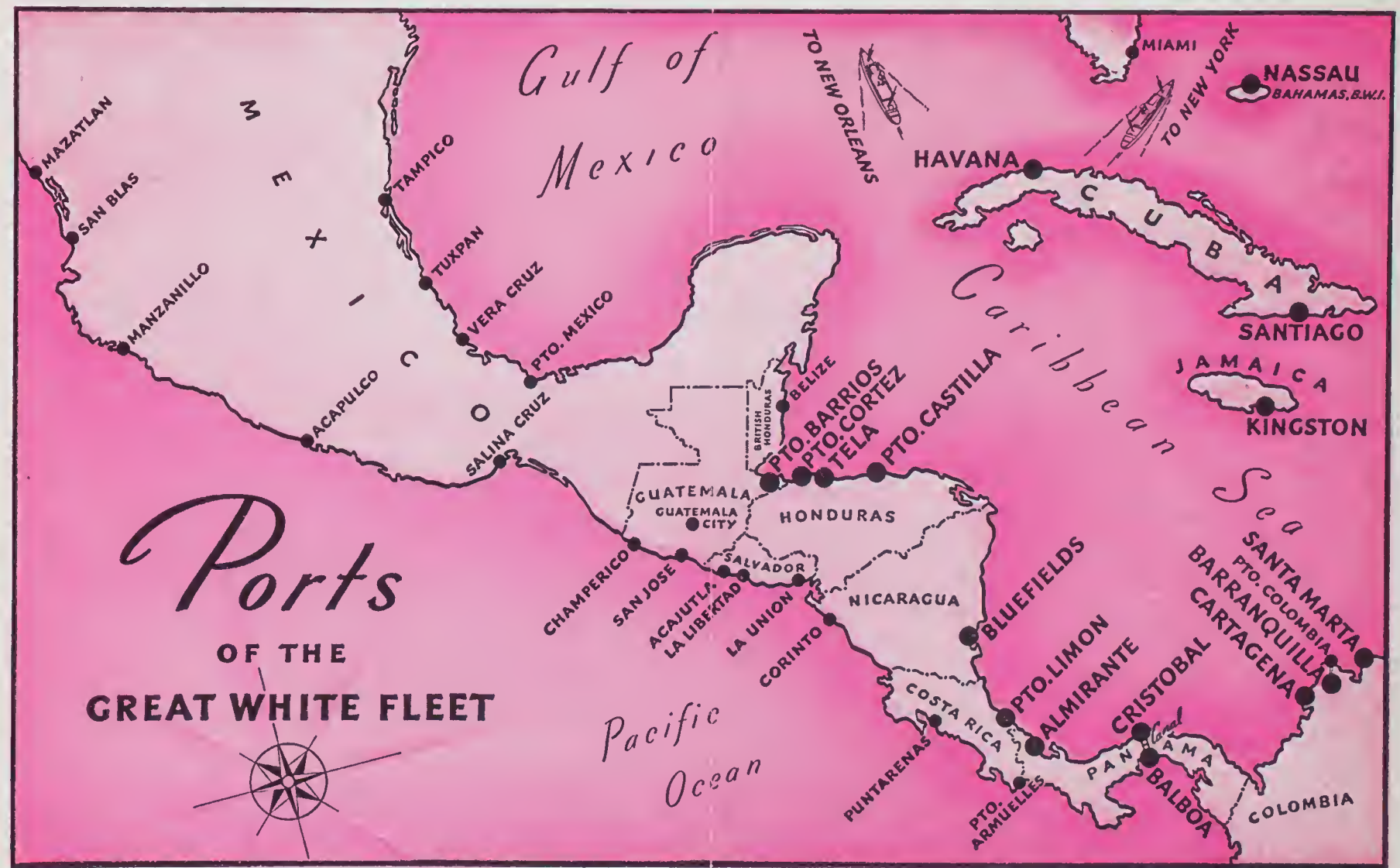
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DECEMBER

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OCTOBER—NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1940

NEW YORK—CUBA—CANAL ZONE—COSTA RICA—GUATEMALA SERVICE

SERVICE NUMBER 1	NAME OF STEAMER	PORTS OF CALL	JAMAICA	VERAGUA	CHIRIQUE	TALAMANCA	QUIRIGUA	JAMAICA	VERAGUA	CHIRIQUE	TALAMANCA	QUIRIGUA	JAMAICA	VERAGUA	CHIRIQUE
New York	Lv. Sat.	Noon	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28
CUBA	Havana	Ar. Tues. P.M.	Oct. 15	Oct. 16	Oct. 29	Nov. 12	Nov. 26	Nov. 13	Nov. 27	Dec. 10	Dec. 21	Dec. 11	Dec. 25		
PANAMA CANAL ZONE	Cristobal	Ar. Thur. A.M.	Oct. 10	Oct. 19	Oct. 24	Nov. 2	Nov. 16	Nov. 21	Nov. 30	Dec. 5	Dec. 14	Dec. 19	Dec. 28	Jan. 2	
COSTA RICA	Port Limon	Ar. Fri. A.M.	Oct. 11	Oct. 25	Nov. 8	Nov. 22	Dec. 6	Dec. 20	Jan. 3						
GUATEMALA	Puerto Barrios	Ar. Mon. P.M.	Oct. 14	Oct. 22	Nov. 5	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	Jan. 7		
CUBA	Havana	Ar. Thur. A.M.	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Jan. 9
New York	Ar. Sun.	P.M.	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29	Jan. 5	Jan. 12

† Banana loading port.

NEW YORK—JAMAICA—COLOMBIA—CANAL ZONE SERVICE

SERVICE NUMBER 2	NAME OF STEAMER	PORTS OF CALL	CHIRIQUE	TALAMANCA	QUIRIGUA	JAMAICA	VERAGUA	CHIRIQUE	TALAMANCA	QUIRIGUA	JAMAICA	VERAGUA	CHIRIQUE	TALAMANCA	QUIRIGUA
New York	Lv. Wed.	Noon	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25
JAMAICA	Kingston	Ar. Sun. A.M.	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
COLOMBIA	Barranquilla	Ar. Mon. P.M.	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
PANAMA CANAL ZONE	Cristobal	Ar. Thur. P.M.	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Jan. 2
JAMAICA	Kingston	Ar. Sun. A.M.	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29	Jan. 5
New York	Ar. Thur.	A.M.	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Jan. 9

NEW YORK—CUBA—HONDURAS—GUATEMALA SERVICE

SERVICE NUMBER 3	NAME OF STEAMER	PORTS OF CALL	ANTIGUA	CALAMARES	ANTIGUA	CALAMARES	ANTIGUA	CALAMARES	ANTIGUA	CALAMARES	ANTIGUA	CALAMARES	ANTIGUA	CALAMARES	ANTIGUA
New York	Lv. Fri.	9 A.M.	Oct. 5	Oct. 19	Nov. 2	Nov. 16	Nov. 30	Dec. 14	Dec. 28						
CUBA	Havana	Ar. Tues. P.M.	Oct. 8	Oct. 22	Nov. 5	Nov. 19	Dec. 3	Dec. 17	Dec. 31						
HONDURAS	Tela	Ar. Wed. P.M.	Oct. 16	Oct. 30	Nov. 13	Nov. 27	Dec. 11	Dec. 25							
GUATEMALA	Puerto Barrios	Ar. Thur. A.M.	Oct. 17	Oct. 31	Nov. 14	Nov. 28	Dec. 12	Dec. 26							
New York	Ar. Wed.	P.M.	Oct. 16	Oct. 30	Nov. 13	Nov. 27	Dec. 11	Dec. 25							

★ Or earlier. † Banana loading port.
(■) Freight vessel—no passengers carried.

NEW YORK—HONDURAS SERVICE

SERVICE NUMBER 4	NAME OF STEAMER	PORTS OF CALL	MUSA	PLATANO	MUSA	PLATANO	MUSA	PLATANO	MUSA	PLATANO	MUSA	PLATANO	MUSA	PLATANO	MUSA
New York	Lv. Sat.	10 A.M.	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28
PANAMA CANAL ZONE	Cristobal	Ar. Thur. A.M.	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Jan. 2
HONDURAS	Puerto Cortes	Ar. Sat. P.M.	Oct. 12	Oct. 26	Nov. 9	Nov. 23	Dec. 7	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	Jan. 4					
New York	Ar. Thur.	P.M.	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Jan. 2	Jan. 9

★ Or earlier. † Banana loading port.
(X) Equipped to carry only 12 passengers.

NEW ORLEANS—CUBA—COSTA RICA—CANAL ZONE—PANAMA—HONDURAS SERVICE

SERVICE NUMBER 5	NAME OF STEAMER	PORTS OF CALL	SKAOLA	ULUA	SANTA MARTA	TOLOA	SIXAOLA	ULUA	SANTA MARTA	TOLOA	SIXAOLA	ULUA	SANTA MARTA	TOLOA	SIXAOLA
New Orleans	Lv. Sat.	11 A.M.	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28
CUBA	Havana	Ar. Mon. A.M.	Oct. 7	Oct. 14	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30
COSTA RICA	Port Limon	Ar. Fri. A.M.	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 3	
PANAMA CANAL ZONE	Cristobal	Ar. Sat. A.M.	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	Jan. 4	
PANAMA	Almirante	Ar. Sun. A.M.	Oct. 13	Oct. 27	Nov. 10	Nov. 24	Dec. 8	Dec. 22	Jan. 5						
HONDURAS	Tela	Ar. Tues. P.M.	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24	Dec. 31	Jan. 7
CUBA	Havana	Ar. Fri. A.M.	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29	Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 3	Jan. 10
New Orleans	Ar. Mon.	A.M.	Oct. 21	Oct. 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25	Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 23	Dec. 30	Jan. 6	Jan. 13

★ Or earlier.
† Banana loading port.

NEW ORLEANS—GUATEMALA—HONDURAS SERVICE

SERVICE NUMBER 6	NAME OF STEAMER	PORTS OF CALL	ZACAPA	SANTA MARTA	TOLOA	SKAOLA	ULUA	SANTA MARTA	TOLOA	SKAOLA	ULUA	SANTA MARTA	TOLOA	SKAOLA	ULUA
New Orleans	Lv. Wed.	10 A.M.	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov. 27	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25
GUATEMALA	Puerto Barrios	Ar. Sat. P.M.	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26	Nov. 2	Nov. 9	Nov. 16	Nov. 23	Nov. 30	Dec. 7	Dec. 14	Dec. 21	Dec. 28
HONDURAS	Puerto Cortes	Ar. Sun. A.M.	Oct. 6	Oct. 13	Oct. 20	Oct. 27	Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
New Orleans	Ar. Thur.	A.M.	Oct. 10	Oct. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14	Nov. 21	Nov. 28	Dec. 5	Dec. 12	Dec. 19	Dec. 26	Jan. 2

★ Or earlier.
† Banana loading port.
(X) Equipped to carry only 8 passengers.

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THE HEART OF THE AMERICAS

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A BOOKLET OF USEFUL INFORMATION



Bronze monument of Juan Santamaría, National Hero, in Alajuela,
his birthplace

Published by the National Tourist Board of Costa Rica
SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

JULY 1939

SEVENTH ENGLISH EDITION (Revised)

To the Visitor to Costa Rica

This brochure is presented to you with the compliments of the National Tourist Board of Costa Rica, an official institution created with the special object of promoting tourist traffic to Costa Rica.

The Board will be glad to furnish, free of charge, information about the sight-seeing and recreational facilities whereby you may obtain the maximum benefit from your visit to Costa Rica.

Additional copies of this booklet and other interesting literature descriptive of Costa Rica will be supplied gratis upon request or will be mailed direct to any address abroad which you may indicate.

There are also Spanish and German editions of "Sightseeing in Costa Rica."



Crater of the Poás Volcano



Crater of the Irazú Volcano



Lake Arenal, on top of a mountain in Costa Rica

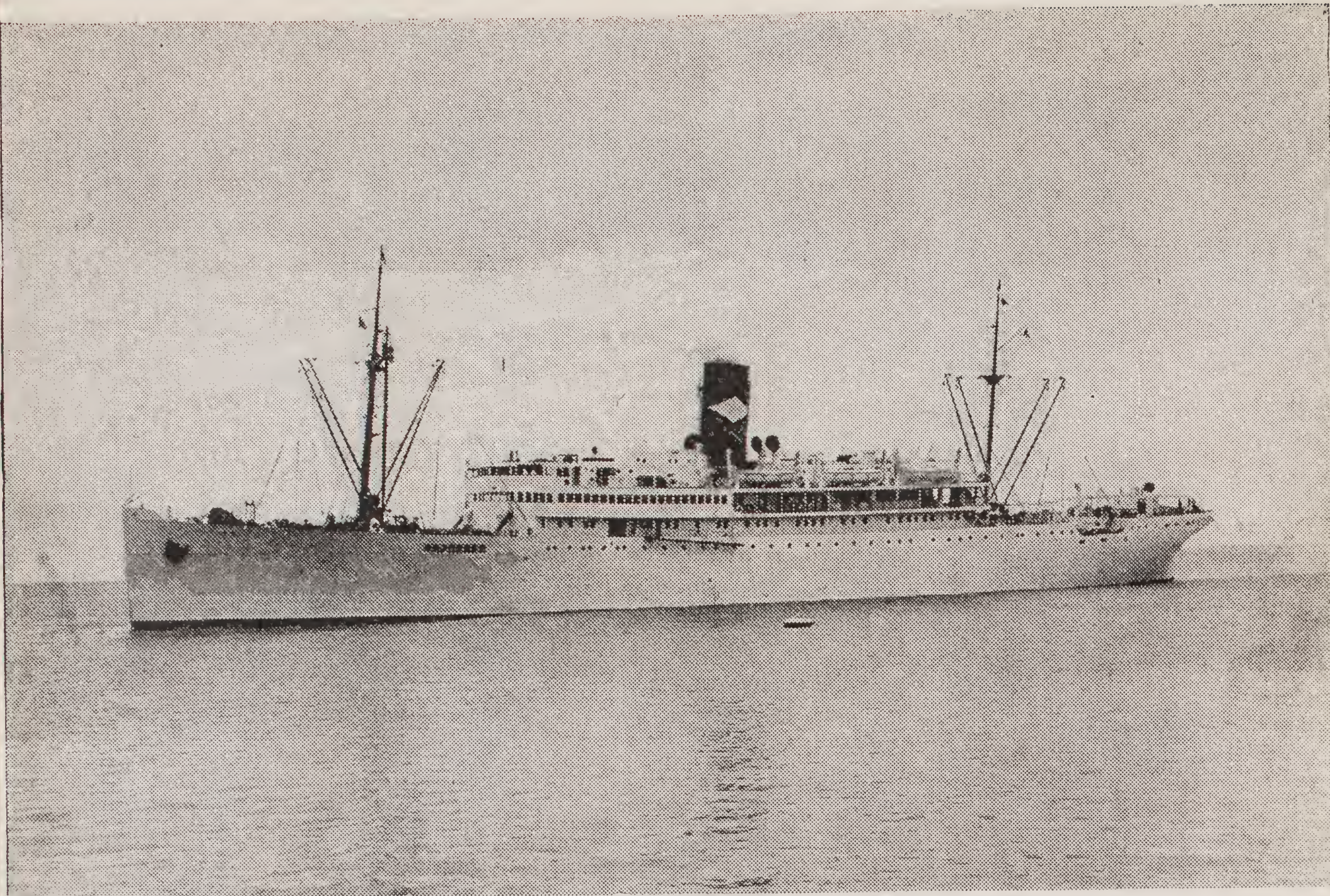
An Introduction to Costa Rica, Land of Eternal Spring

COSTA Rica, the most charming and beautiful of the Central American republics, deserves to be better known by the tourist in search of rest, health, an ideal climate, scenic beauty and tranquillity, rather than the somewhat hectic life, usually by night, which is generally associated with the countries which line the Caribbean Sea.

Those persons who visit Costa Rica for a short time usually leave it only with regret and with an instinctive desire to return later for a more lengthy stay. In this respect Costa Rica is truly "different". To visit the countries of the Spanish Main and not include Costa Rica in one's itinerary is merely denying oneself the *piece de resistance* of the whole trip, as this little booklet will attempt to prove.

Costa Rica is well served with steamer and airplane services. The majority of American visitors usually come via the Panama Canal and Cristobal from New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Los Angeles, etc., landing at either Puntarenas on the Pacific coast or Puerto Limon on the Atlantic side.

*Costa Rica, with its world-renowned
hospitality, awaits your visit*



One of the many United Fruit Co's steamers which call regularly at Costa Rican ports

The ships of the following lines call regularly at Costa Rican ports, usually weekly or fortnightly.

Those companies marked with an asterisk maintain their own offices in San José. All others are represented by agents.

- * UNITED FRUIT COMPANY. (American).
- * ROYAL NETHERLANDS STEAMSHIP Co. (Dutch).
- * HAPAG LLOYD (German).
- GRACE LINE (American).
- * ELDERS & FYFFES. (British).
- EAST ASIATIC Co. Inc. (Danish).
- FRED OLSEN LINE. (Norwegian).
- CIE. GENERALE TRANSATLANTIQUE. (French).
- HOLLAND AMERIKA LINE. (Dutch).
- ROYAL MAIL. (British).
- PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION Co. (British).
- NORWAY PACIFIC LINE. (Norwegian).
- JOHNSON LINE. (Swedish).



The PAN-AMERICAN AIRWAYS System offers connections with all the countries of North and South America from San José, Costa Rica's capital, several times weekly:

The international airport is located at Santa Ana, about 15 miles due west of San José with which it is connected by a fine, concrete road. A new international airport is being constructed at the Sabana, only five minutes from the heart of San José.

The local aviation companies also have services to Panamá and Nicaragua.



Palm Promenade at Vargas Park, Port Limón

First Impressions of Costa Rica

PUERTO LIMON

(The usual port of entry)

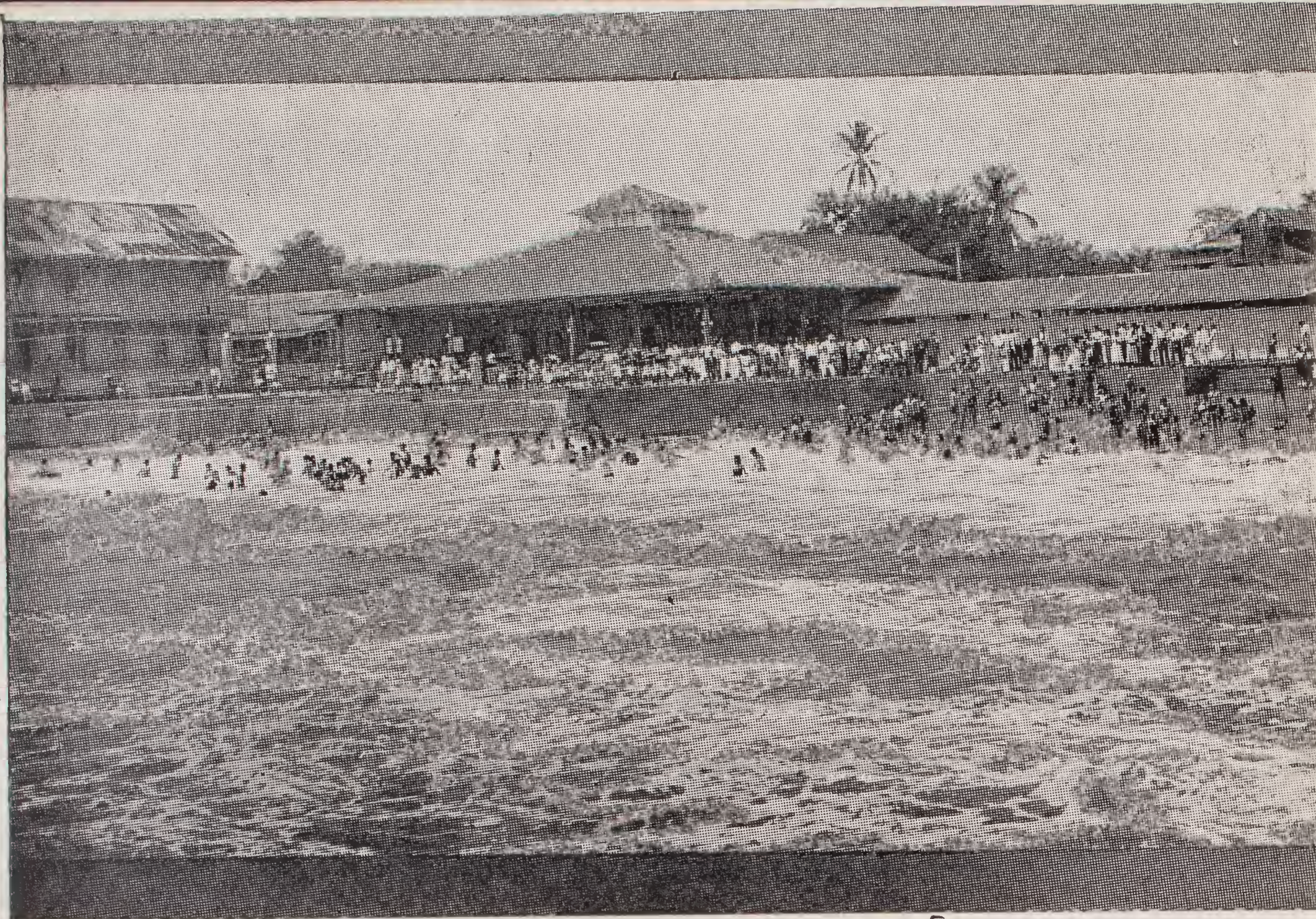
AN over night trip from Cristóbal, Panamá Canal Zone, and the first streaks of dawn sweeping over the placid, azure waters of the Atlantic find your steamer standing off Puerto Limón, Costa Rica's chief "banana port" which nestles in the arms of a palmfringed bay, behind which rear the high jungle-clad mountains of the interior.

By the time you have taken breakfast the ship is already tied up alongside one of the wharves where a representative of the National Tourist Board of Costa Rica is waiting to escort you to San José, the capital, on the special train which awaits all tourist ships.

There are no difficult customs to be negotiated (the tourist you will find, is a highly privileged person in Costa Rica) and within the space of a few minutes you find yourself on Costa Rican soil ready to enjoy the many pleasures which the country has to offer its guests.

Puerto Limón marks the exact site of an ancient Indian village, Carare by name, where Christopher Columbus landed on his fourth and last voyage to America. It is a very busy port, most of Costa Rica's coffee, bananas and other products passing through here on their way to the markets of Europe and North America, while a substantial proportion of the country's varied imports enters here too.

The city is neatly laid out in square, well-paved blocks and enjoys the most modern sanitation. Much of Puerto Limón's population is colored but the visitor must bear in mind



Modern bathing resort at Port Limón

that the negro folks are not natives of Costa Rica. They are British West Indians brought over from Jamaica to work in the banana and cacao plantations which line the coastal regions and they lend to Limón that picturesque touch which permits one to compare the place with a town in the British Antilles.

Before the train leaves for San José there is usually sufficient time for the tourist to visit the city's outstanding points of interest.

Worthy of at least a brief visit are Vargas Park, a miniature botanical garden, offering a welcome shade after the heat and glare of the open streets; the Market, with its abundance of fresh, tropical fruits; the Cathedral, the modern and well-equipped bathing pavillion on the beach, and the Miramar Club which has an open-air swimming pool fed with fresh sea-water. If you have time, The United Fruit Company's Zone, with its comfortable bungalows, well-kept gardens and its Community House, the rendez-vous of the Company's American employees, will open its gates to you. Here, a refreshing dip in the sea may be indulged in. Visitors obliged to stay in Puerto Limón for any length of time will find the Park Hotel homelike and comfortable.

If you hire an automobile to do your sightseeing in Limón the maximum legal fare is ₡ 7 per hour or ₡ 1 per person per short trip within the city limits: each additional passenger ₡ 0.50 (Costa Rican currency).

If you have any preconceived ideas that railroad travel in Latin-American countries is not exactly a thing of comfort you may discard them at once as far as Costa Rica is concerned. Comfortable parlor-cars with wide windows, running over the smoothest of tracks, enable the traveller to admire the ever-changing panorama disclosed to his wondering eyes in perfect comfort.



Sunset scene at Port Limón

For the first few miles after leaving Puerto Limón the train track runs at a stone's throw from the seashore, giving the passenger pleasing vistas of the palm-lined coral strand being laved by the gigantic breakers of the Atlantic Ocean. A little later the train enters an almost unbroken area of cacao and banana plantations, each with its quota of simple frame dwellings whose verandahs swarm with gossiping Negroes.

Here and there the discerning eye will pick out giant trees whose thick trunks are devoid of branches for fifty or more feet up, proclaiming the fact that this region was once a dense, tropical forest which has now succumbed to the developing hand of man. Brightly-colored parrots, long-billed toucans and diminutive humming birds catch the eye as they swoop though the air, not in ones or twos, but in their hundreds.

Between Siquirres, an important banana centre, and Turrialba, where the first coffee farms are seen, the railroad virtually runs on a narrow ledge poised, twixt mountain and river. On the left are the rushing, roaring waters of the River Reventazón, swirling up to the very base of the track, while on the right the high, timbered mountains tower vertically upwards.

Thrills there are in plenty as the train negotiates the sharp curves of the torrential river and passes easily across yawning chasms via substantial bridges which do credit to pioneers who, under the guiding hand of the American engineer, Minor C. Keith, constructed the railroad from coast to capital back in the 1880s.

On the banks of the river an occasional, fat alligator may be spied basking in the sun but the rumbling and snorting, of the passing train fail to disturb him.

The passing of the train is the event of the day for all



Continental Divide

the towns and villages along the route and the inhabitants turn out *en bloc* to see what passengers and news the train brings. At Turrialba native women wander along the waiting train offering tempting slices of rich, juicy pineapple to the traveller.

Turrialba, incidentally, is the limit of the Negro "penetration" and from here onwards the newcomer will be among people wholly Costa Rican; people whose fair complexions testify to their unadulterated European origin, culminating, in San José, in a city not vastly differing, as regards its inhabitants, from any city of Europe or North America.

In the 62 miles to Turrialba from Limón the train has climbed some 2000 feet but in the succeeding 30 miles it has to climb steeply another 3000 feet, or 100 feet per mile, no mean grade taking into consideration the twists and turns which have to be negotiated.

The view throughout this section of the journey may aptly be described as gorgeous. The whole valley of the Reventazón river may be seen at one sweep of the eye with the rushing river itself appearing as a tiny, narrow ribbon of white foam a thousand or more feet below the train.

At this high altitude one becomes aware of an invigorating, cool snap in the air as the tropics are left behind and the train attains the central plateau, or the Meseta Central as it is known where the climate is more or less constant the whole year round, justifying Costa Rica's claim to be the land of eternal spring.

Cartago, 90 miles from Limón, and the republic's former



Typical Costa Rican landscape

capital, a thriving city of 8000 inhabitants, is passed at a height of 4760 feet and shortly afterwards comes the inevitable thrill of crossing the Continental Divide at 5137 feet on a ridge which links the Rocky Mountains of the North with the Andes of the South in one long, unbroken chain. From this highest point there is a gradual descent to San José (Pop. 65,000) which stands at 3870 feet above sea level and where our journey of some five hours ends.

As the visitor rides in his taxi from the Atlantic railroad station to his hotel he senses at once that he is in a city which, conforms to all modern standards. Clean, wide, asphalted avenues, flanked by spacious, shady, green parks and modern buildings; the people dressed in dark clothes instead of the expected white drill; flower gardens at every turn of the hand; all tend to make the visitor feel at home right from the moment of arrival.

This feeling is enhanced on arriving at your hotel, one of the best in Central America, every square inch of which was designed with only one object in view—the comfort of its guests. There is nothing "foreign" about the hotel; it is a home from home where just as much English as Spanish is spoken. And this equally applies to the whole of the capital for nearly all the shopkeepers, waiters, chauffeurs and hotel clerks speak English, making for easy understanding between the visitor and the native.

However, you are in San José, the nation's capital, at last. You refreshed yourself after the train journey, you have dined amid flowers to the accompaniment of a first-class orchestra playing lilting Spanish music, and been fascinated by the beauty of the Costa Rican *señoritas* present, and you are now ready to explore the city and its environs.

Let us see what San José has to offer.



Morazán Park. Music Temple. San José.

Your Railroad Journey to the Capital

ATLANTIC ROUTE

(See sectional map at end of book)

PRINCIPAL STATIONS	Distance from Limón Miles	Distance from San José Miles	ALTITUDE		TIMES AND FARES
			Feet	Meters	
Limón	0.0	103.2	11.	3.	LEAVES: 10.30 a.m. DAILY
Moin Junction	3.5	99.7	20.	6.	
Estrada	20.4	82.8	80.	23.	First class fare Limón to San José \$ 8.35 Chair car \$ 5.00 extra.
Matina	21.9	81.3	60.	17.	
Madre de Dios	29.1	74.1	55.	19.	
SIQUIRRES	37.1	66.1	300.	60.	
La Junta	39.0	64.2	187.	57.	
Florida	44.0	59.2	196.	90.	
Las Lomas	46.1	57.1	897.	268.	
Peralta	55.2	48.0	1055.	322.	
Turrialba	63.4	39.8	2037.	621.	
Tucurrique	69.7	33.5	2500.	762.	
Juan Viñas	74.3	23.1	3286.	1002.	
Santiago	79.1			1078.	
Cartago	86.4	16.8	4392.	1339.	
Paraíso	90.4	12.8	4760.	1451.	
El Alto (Cont. Div.)	93.2	9.8	5137.	1566.	
Tres Ríos	97.0	6.0	4363.	1330.	ARRIVES 4.45 p.m.
San José	103.2	0.0	3800.	1158.	

*SIQUIRRES.—Lunch Station.—20 minutes stop.—Eat while the train waits.—Restaurant right at the Station.—English Spoken.

NOTE.—The special tourist trains between Puerto Limón and San José are non-stop and make the journey in about 4 hours.

The regular schedule train for Limón from San José departs at 9 a. m. daily and arrives about 3.15 p. m. If there is a sufficient number of tourists a special train may be run at a later hour, by arrangement.



National Theatre. San José.

San José

The Million Dollar National Theatre

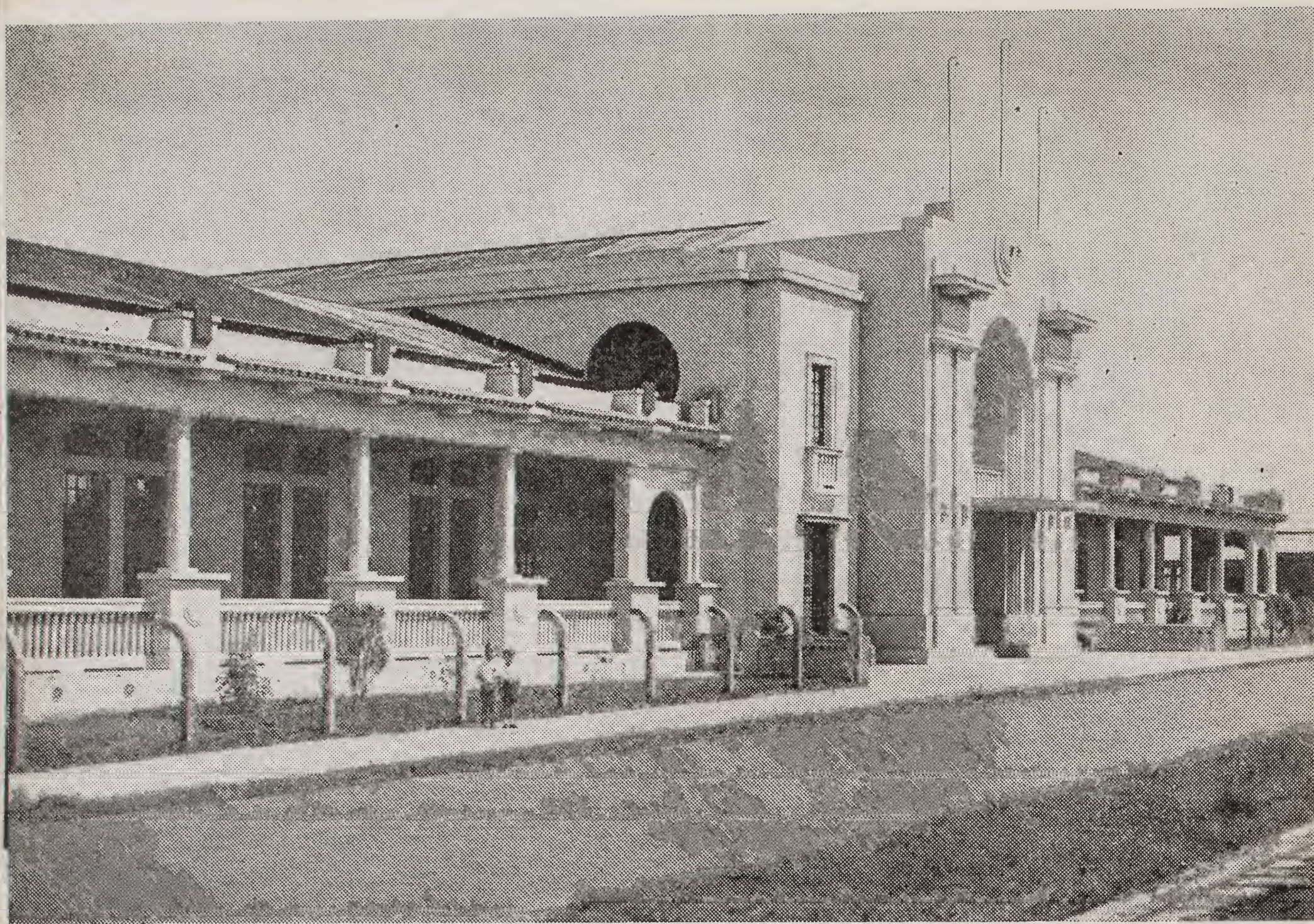
An artistic jewel whose architectural beauty is not merely skin deep. Solid marble balconies and stairways, beautiful sculpture, beaten gold and bronze decorations, immense ceiling and wall paintings as fresh as the day they were executed forty years ago, all combine to make the visitor feel that it would have been an unforgivable omission not to have entered the theatre. The regal, mirrored salon, with its beautiful plush and gold decoration, is equal to anything the palaces of the Old World can offer.

Concerts and plays are frequently staged in the National Theatre and on such occasions the élite of San José may be seen gathered together under one roof.

The National Congress (Central Avenue)

Where the Nation's laws are made. When in session Congress meets daily at 3 p. m. and half an hour spent in the public galleries will amply demonstrate that there is absolute political freedom in Costa Rica. Laws are debated and approved in a dignified manner and the respect for parliamentary rule and precedent is not far short of that found in that model of lawmaking institutions, the British Houses of Parliament.

The Congress Hall itself is of truly regal aspect and the walls are lined with painted portraits of former presidents.



One of the many fine Public Schools. San José.

Admission to the public galleries may be arranged with the Manager of the National Tourist Board.

La Sabana

San Jose's playground. A wide, flat, green, park-like stretch of open ground, almost as large as the city itself, where there are ample facilities for foot-ball and golf.

Here is the landing field of the local airplane services, affording the opportunity to make long or short flights over San José and the surrounding country at remarkably low rates in the newest and safest of planes.

The *Sabana* is being converted into a modern international airport which, when completed, will be the best in Central America.

The *Sabana* is surrounded by luxuriant coffee plantations, all as trimly kept as flower gardens, at any of which the casual visitor is always welcome. Farther afield rise giant mountains which, due to the remarkable clarity of the atmosphere, appear very close at hand.

The National Stadium

Adjacent to the *Sabana*. Where Costa Rica's foot-ball fans meet every Sunday morning to view spectacular "soccer" matches. Costa Ricans generally are proud of their prowess in foot-ball and exciting international matches are sometimes staged.

Paseo de Colón

Connecting the city with the *Sabana*. A magnificent recently-constructed, wide, tree-lined boulevard, with colorful chalets on both sides, where live many of San Jose's prominent



Paseo Colón. San José.

families. Half way along the *paseo* is a tall obelisk dedicated to the memory of Christopher Columbus.

Metropolitan Cathedral

The principal temple of the Roman Catholic faith. Sunday masses start at 5 a. m. and continue until midday. The military band attends the 8 o'clock mass, affording an impressive spectacle which even the non Catholic cannot fail to appreciate.

There are also Episcopalian, Methodist, Baptist, Evangelist, Seventh Day Adventist and churches of other denominations in San José where, as throughout the country, perfect religious liberty prevails.

National Museum

Here will be found interesting reminders of Costa Rica's early colonial history. A large part of the museum is given over to Indian relics excavated in various parts of the country. Maya-like carvings and pottery tell the story of the ancient civilization which existed long before the Spaniards came to Costa Rica. Admission to the museum is, of course, free.

(Open weekdays: 8 to 11 a. m. and 2 to 4 p. m. Saturdays: 8 to 11 a. m. Closed on Sundays).

There are also privately-owned museums where Inca, Maya, Aztec and other relics may be acquired by collectors.

Bolivar Park of Zoological Garden

Dedicated to the George Washington of South America this park on the outskirts of the city is a natural setting for the interesting collection of native fauna housed here. Pumas, monkeys, snakes and other denizens of the Costa Rican jungle will claim your keen attention.



Cathedral in front of Central Park. San José.

Central Park

Here you will find many characteristic tropical trees. A musical concert is given by the military band every Wednesday evening from 8 to 9 and on Sundays at 5 p. m. and there you will see Costa Rica's beautiful *señoritas*. Once every fortnight, on Sunday at noon, all San José gathers in Central Park to witness the public drawing of the National Lottery in aid of the local hospitals. Perhaps you, too will not be adverse to investing the small sum of ₡ 10 for a ticket which may enrich you to the extent of ₡ 30,000, or more.

Orchid Garden

Did you know that there are more varieties of orchids in Costa Rica than in any other tropical country? In the gorgeous orchid avenue you will see almost 200 varieties blooming against a background of many other beautiful flowers.

Morazán Park

This park is an important feature of San José life. Musical concerts are rendered by the military band on Monday and Friday evenings.

National Park

Particularly impressive is the great bronze monument of the five Sister Republics of Central America, recalling the days when the American filibuster, William Walker sought to set up his own kingdom.



General Post Office. San José.

General Post Office

An imposing public building known the world over by virtue of its appearing on one of Costa Rica's postage stamps. Philatelists who desire to acquire stamps for their collections will find the post office clerks very obliging and helpful.

National Liquor Factory

Here you are invited to witness the manufacture of all kinds of spirituous liquors. Whatever your fancy, be it Rum, Gin, Chartreuse, Anise, Curacao, Creme de Cacao, Creme de Café, Creme de Banana or Blackberry Wine, Costa Rica will show you products some of which are equal to any from abroad. It will be hard for you to resist carrying away a bottle or two especially when the price rarely exceeds \$ 1.00 a bottle. The National Tourist Board sincerely recommends all visitors to sample some of the fruit wines of this factory.

The Market

Every fruit and vegetable known to the tropics and the temperate zone under one roof. Pineapples, Mangoes, Papayas, Oranges, Lemons, Blackberries, Strawberries. Nísperos, Bananas and a hundred others serve to demonstrate the richness of the country's soil. Here, too, you will find examples of native handicrafts, at prices which appear ridiculously cheap compared with foreign standards.

Theatres

Besides the National Theatre there are several fine theatres, one of these, the Raventós (18), claiming to be the



Drying Costa Rican Coffee

largest in Central America. At all the theatres the very latest talking pictures (in English) are shown.

The leading talking picture theatres are the Palace (very modern) the Raventós and the Variedades. There are usually three performances daily; at 3, 7 and 8.30 p. m. On Sundays, there are five showings, at 1, 2.30, 4, 7 and 8.45 p. m. It is advisable to book seats for the 8.45 p. m. performance on Sundays.

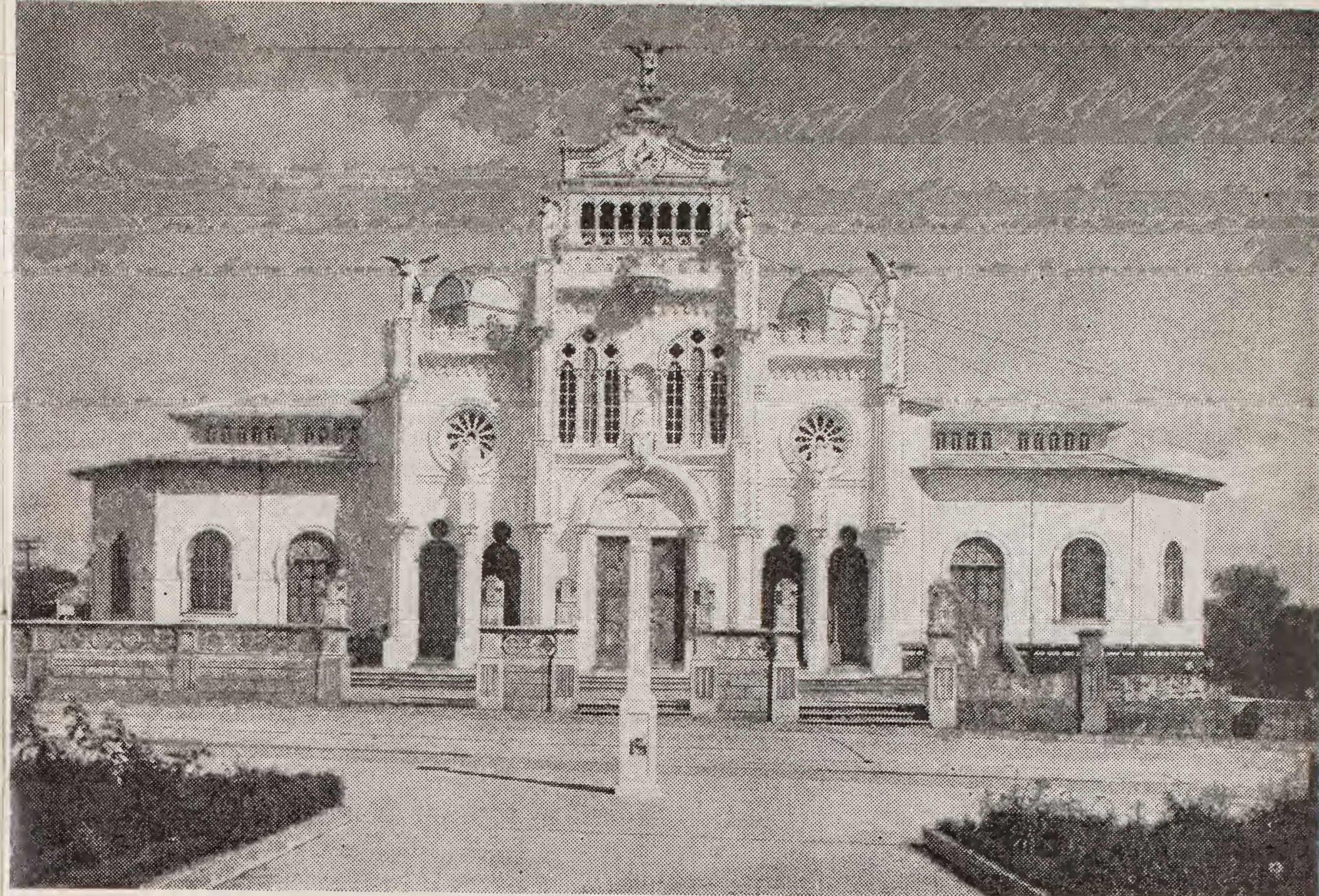
National School of Agriculture

This government-maintained institution conducts research work with a view to improving Costa Rica's agricultural products. Some of its experiments, conducted over a period of several years, notably with coffee, have resulted in yields being obtained from five to ten times those of normal farms. The School's experimental farm covers a large area and here the visitor interested in farming will find much to instruct and entertain him.

Hospitals

Costa Rica knows how to care for its sick and maimed and the foreign medical practitioner or student is cordially invited to visit San José's chief hospital, San Juan de Dios, with a capacity of close to 1000 patients, where he will find that the equipment and treatment rank second to none.

Note: The various points of interest may easily be located by correlating the guide numbers in the text with the numbers on the plan of the city. (Pages 24 and 25).



Church of Our Lady of the Angels, Cartago.

Exploring Costa Rica

Carretera Central

This is the Spanish name of Costa Rica's recently constructed Central Highway, a winding strip of concrete and asphalted road connecting San José with Cartago on the east and San Ramón on the west. It unfolds the exotic beauties of rural Costa Rica—an open road of enchantment leading over friendly hills; across sunny valleys; past cool, green forests; through sleepy, quaint villages where the whole atmosphere is one of Peace, Friendliness and Hospitality.

Cartago

Cartago is just 12 miles from San José and 1000 feet higher above sea level. Consequently the air is a trifle cooler, making the city a favorite resort in summer time. Between the capital and Cartago the road is lined with magnificent coffee farms, the choicest in the country, at any one of which the tourist is welcome to stop and see for himself the perfection with which Costa Rican coffee is prepared for foreign markets, a perfection which is reflected in the high prices the coffee commands abroad.

Cartago is the home of Costa Rica's patron saint *Nuestra Señora de los Angeles*. "Our Lady of the Angels" is enshrined in a beautiful church of somewhat oriental aspect. Tradition says that the church is built on the identical spot where the saint revealed herself to a poor Indian slave girl many



Orosi Mission Church at Orosi Valley. 300 years old.

long years ago and the relic which she is said to have left with her commands a nation-wide veneration, making the church a Mecca for pilgrims from all parts of the Republic.

Cartago is a convenient centre for side-trips to such interesting places as the Orosi Valley and the Irazu volcano.

The trip to Cartago and back from San José by automobile requires about 2 hours. Fare \$ 2, whether for one or four persons.

Orosi Valley

This might be called the "Vale of Enchantment", so lavish has Nature been with her scenic gifts. Running throughout the length of the valley is the foaming Reventazón river, whose very name reveals its turbulent nature: "The Rushing and Roaring of the Waves".

A good road enables one to traverse the valley by automobile in comfort but the more adventurous person may feel like mounting a horse and exploring the virgin jungle at the far end of the valley in order to locate the mighty cataract of Orosi, 300 feet high, a beautiful waterfall in the heart of the forest.

There are several hot sulphur springs in the Orosi valley, connecting links with Costa Rica's volcanoes.

Besides scenic grandeur the valley is of great historical interest. The little old-world village of Orosi is justly famed for its ancient Spanish Mission, over three hundred years old, and but little changed from the days when the once mighty Spain ruled supreme in the New World.

The trip to the Orosi Mission from San José via Cartago, lasts about four hours and costs about \$ 4.50 (1 to 4 persons).



Highway from San José to Cartago

Ujarrás

Not far from Cartago, although accessible by automobile only in the summer, are the ruins Ujarrás Mission, dating back to 1575 which stand in a small but beautiful valley. A visit to this picturesque and ancient spot will not be regretted.

Irazú Volcano

If the compiler of this little book has so far been somewhat conservative in the use of those superlative adjectives usually associated only with travel brochures and movie features he cannot continue thus when it comes to talking about Irazú Volcano.

Magnificent! Stupendous, Mighty! Marvellous! Wonderful! Gorgeous! Beautiful! Unbelievable! Something beyond the imagination! All these, and more, may justifiably be used when describing the mountain that is Irazú, which dominates the central plateau and whose smoke the visitor from his hotel window back in San José may see gently coiling upwards to meet the clouds the whole day long.

Thanks to the excellent arrangements of the National Tourist Board the trip to the volcano's crater and back may be made in less than 6 hours.

As the air at the summit is usually clearest in the early hours of the morning, one's arrival has to be timed accordingly, and so the volcano-climbing party should set out from San José about 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning for the first stage of the journey which is made by automobile.

The sleeping city of Cartago is soon reached and passed and then the car begins the stiff climb up the winding concrete road which leads as far as the famous *Durán Sanatorium*



Typical ox-cart. — Costa Rica.

where invalids regain lost health, so pure and bracing is the mountain air at this altitude.

For away below, the lights of Cartago, San José and other towns and villages twinkle like miniature fairylands.

Near the Sanatorium horses await the party and as the first streak of dawn begin to illuminate the mountain peaks to the south the hard climb to the crater begins.* Zig-zagging first one way and then the other but ever ascending on the surefooted horses, progress is steady and sure. Now and again as some vantage point is attained one instinctively pauses for a few moments to glance back and drink in the lovely view as the flaming sun bathes the distant mountain peaks and ridges in a sea of different colors while, lower down, a sea of snow-white clouds fills the valleys.

Up and up, ever climbing passing stunted trees which tell mutely the story of their eternal fight with the cold winds at this high altitude, until at last, after two and a half hours of continuous riding, the longed for summit is attained, 11,322 feet above sea level. As the final ridge is crossed clouds of steam and smoke are seen rising from the still invisible crater, to reach which one has to proceed on foot for a few hundred yards across a wind-swept, area from which every trace of vegetation has long since succumbed to the blast of acrid fumes from the volcano.

And then, at last, the edge of the crater itself is reached and one gazes over with a feeling of looking at the entrance of Hades itself. In the middle of the barren, ash-

* A concrete road is in course of construction which, when completed, will permit one to reach within a short distance of the crater by automobile, thus eliminating the present arduous horseback ride.



Party of visitors at the crater of the Turrialba Volcano

covered hollow yawns a vast, bottomless chasm from which rise clouds of steam, smoke and ashes. A sulphurous odor fills the air. All man-made things seem like toys when compared with this great forge of Nature which has been fuming and spewing its wrath skywards for untold centuries. It is the experience of a lifetime to stand alongside this safety-valve of the hidden furnaces beneath the earth's surface and one leaves with a better understanding of the workings of mighty Nature.

But the thrill of viewing the crater must not be allowed to detract one's attention from the other scenic delights at hand. To the east can be seen, 35 miles away, the waters of the Atlantic; to the west, 60 miles distant, the fringe of the Pacific. Not even Balboa, the discoverer of the Pacific, had the thrill of seeing two oceans at the same time. That is something reserved for the tourist in Costa Rica.

If the day be particularly clear yet another big sheet of water may be discerned; the Lake of Nicaragua away to the north.

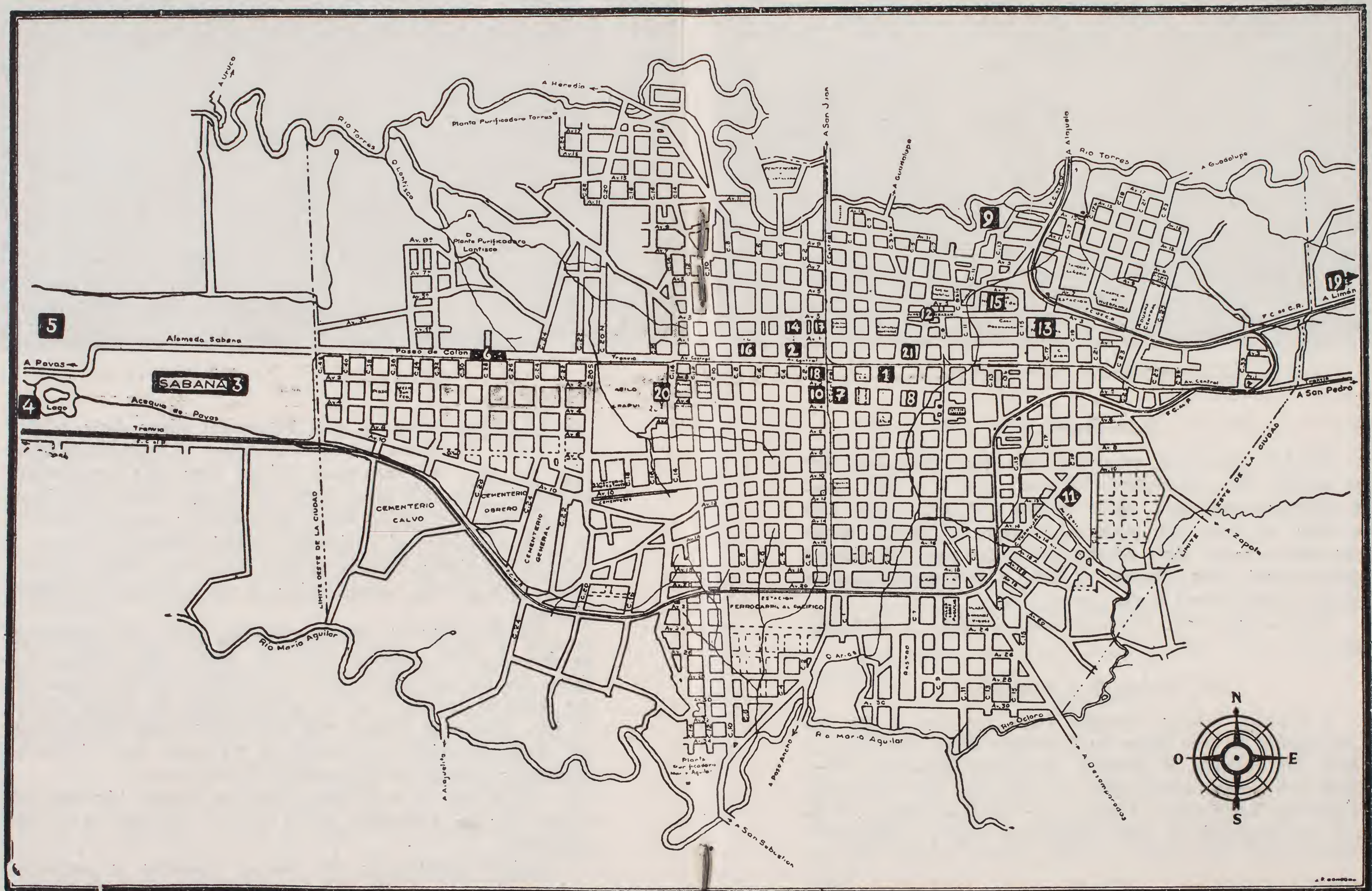
Before commencing the descent, breakfast is partaken, and then the return journey is started, each person leaving with a feeling of intense satisfaction at having conquered the mighty Irazú and gazed into its fiery mouth.

On the way down the mountain side, the early morning clouds having by now lifted somewhat, the rider is able to enjoy to the full a beautiful vista of the wide Guarco valley.

The return to San José in the waiting automobile is made in ample time for lunch.

Cost of entire trip, including automobile, horses and guide, works out at about \$ 3.50 per person for a minimum party of four. Slightly more for a smaller party. Food taken on the trip is of course extra.

PLAN OF SAN JOSE



PLACES OF INTEREST

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 National Theatre | 6 Paseo de Colón | 11 Orchid Garden | 16 The Market |
| 2 National Congress | 7 Cathedral | 12 Morazan Park | 17 Union Club |
| 3 The Sabana | 8 National Museum | 13 National Park | 18 Raventos and Palace Theatres |
| 4 Airport | 9 Bolívar Park and Zoo | 14 General Post Office | 19 School of Agriculture |
| 5 National Stadium | 10 Central Park | 15 National Liquor Factory | 20 Hospital of St John |



Century-old Parish Church. — Heredia, Costa Rica.

Las Nubes

Another interesting excursion into the mountains, this time entirely by automobile and much nearer to San José. Las Nubes is the chief dairy district of Costa Rica. The best time to visit this picturesque region is round about sunset when the red fires of the dying day paint the distant mountains with that splendor of color which proves that of all great artists, Nature is the greatest.

Trip lasting about two ours costs \$ 2.00 (1 to 4 persons).

San Isidro de Coronado

A popular Sunday excursion from San José is the trip by automobile to San Isidro de Coronado where the Summer Colony for children is located. Changing panorama, tranquillity and picturesque details of native life here contribute towards the enjoyment of your stay in Costa Rica. Trip lasting one hour costs \$ 1.00 whether for 1 or 4 persons.

Cacao

In the heart of Costa Rica's richest sugar region. Green, sunny acres of waving sugar cane, vast pastures, large pineapple plantations and trim coffee estates charm the eye at every turn of the road. Near Cacao you can watch the complete transformation of sugar from the raw cane to the white crystals of the tea table in the most modern of sugar mills. Across the road, in a humble *trapiche*, you may see the cane being converted into rich, pure, brown sugar under primitive conditions, the motive power of the mill being a team of oxen or an ancient water-wheel.



National Monument at National Park

Trip to Cacao lasts 3 hours. Costs \$ 4.00 (1 to 4 persons).

Heredia

Capital of the Province of the same name and the centre of an important coffee region. At each and every one of the numerous coffee plantations you will be welcome to spend a pleasant hour and see for yourself how the red berry on the tree is converted into the bean which you buy at your grocer's.

Trip requires one hour. Costs \$ 1.00 (Taxi capacity 4 persons).

Alajuela

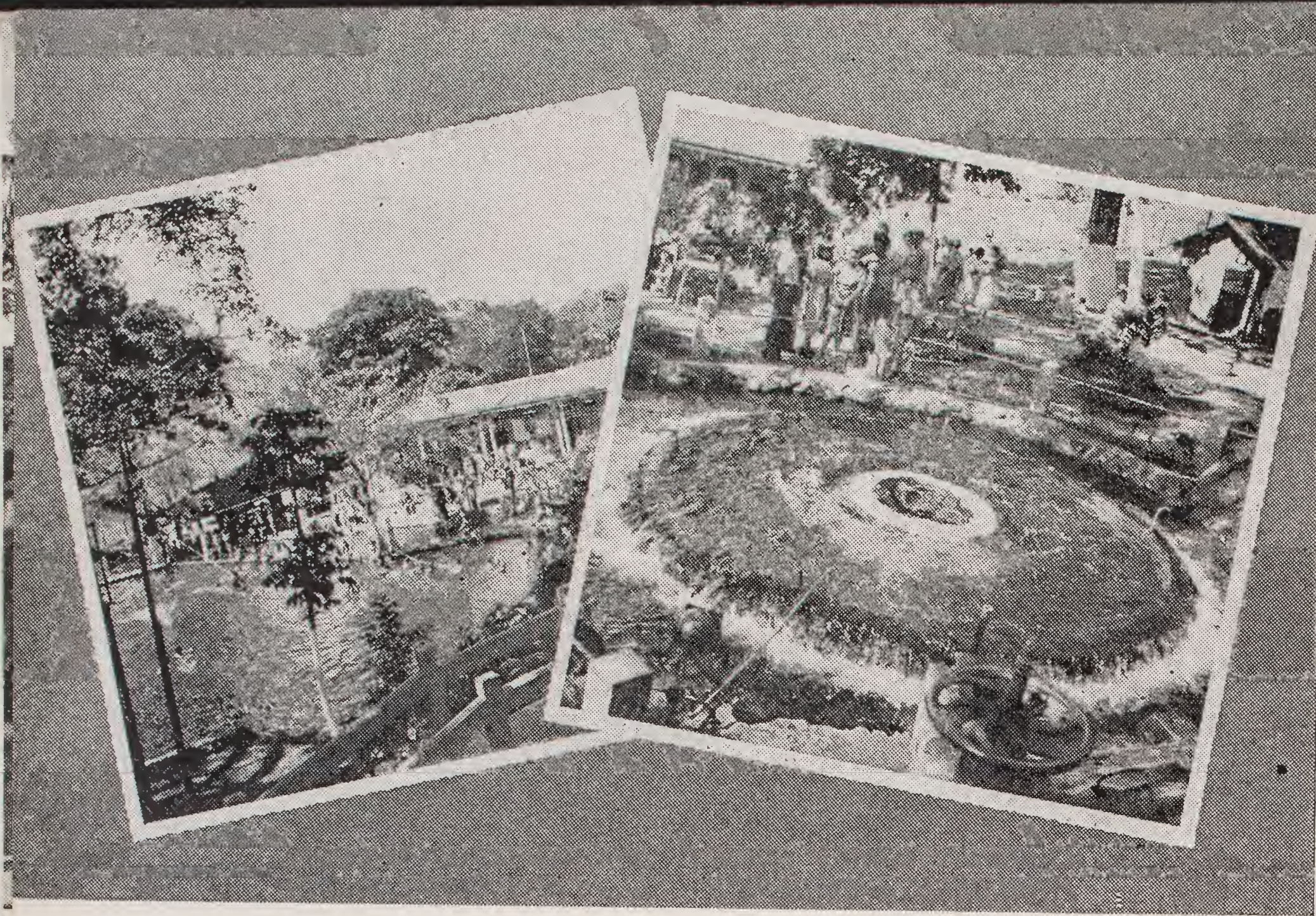
One of Costa Rica's most important provincial cities. Alajuela is famous for its flowers and in the Central Park you will find a wealth of floral beauty which it would be hard to equal anywhere. A weekly cattle fair of considerable magnitude is held in Alajuela and on market days all the ox-carts in the country seem to make this their gathering place.

Historically, Alajuela is famous as the home of the national hero, Juan Santamaría, a humble drummer in the army, who, at the expense of his life, was instrumental in bringing about the capitulation of the filibuster, William Walker, in the year 1856. Santamaría's memory is perpetuated by an inspiring statue erected in one of Alajuela's many parks.

The trip to Alajuela is comfortably made in 2 hours. The cost is \$ 2.00 for from 1 to 4 persons.

Naranjo and Grecia

These truly rural towns are further afield than Heredia



Ojo de Agua. Deep spring which supplies the Port Puntarenas with drinking water — through 80 mile pipe-line.

and Alajuela but may, nevertheless, be reached easily by automobile. The changing scenery by way of winding roads up and down the mountain side, across deep valleys through which run wide torrents, will alone make the trip worth while. Before returning to San José lunch, strictly á la Costa Rica, may be taken in one or another of these peaceful, provincial towns.

Trip to Naranjo lasts 5 hours. Costs \$ 6.00, Grecia 4 hours, \$ 4.50. Lunch extra.

Santa Ana and Escasú

A pleasant, scenic automobile trip which does not take up too much of the tourist's time can be made to Santa Ana, taking in the little town of Escasú on the way.

Santa Ana is a quaint place replete with the traditional peace and hospitality of all Costa Rica's rural centres, and appeals specially to the photographer or artist anxious to record native scenes and types. A fine, concrete road which weaves its way across picturesque hills and valleys connects Santa Ana with San José. On the way there are extensive views of the Central Plateau to delight the eye and the panorama from the big bridge at Los Anonos will thrill even the most jaded traveller.

The round trip to Santa Ana requires about 2 hours and costs \$ 2. (1 to 4 passengers).

Ojo de Agua

Ojo de Agua (see page 34), the source of Puntarenas' drinking water is worthy a visit. Apart from the natural



National Bank and other public buildings in San José

beauty of the landscape there are facilities for bathing in the cool, crystal-clear water from the overflow. Sunday picnics to this charming spot are very popular. The round trip by automobile occupies about three hours and costs only \$ 3.

Poás Volcano — Irazú's Sister

If the mighty Irazú thrills the climber, still more so does Poás, her sister volcano, almost 9,000 feet high. The trip to the summit of Poás requires a little more time than the climb up Irazú but the "going" is not quite so hard.

The best time to make the excursion is round about full moon because much of the climbing has to be done at night-time.

The party intent on conquering Poás usually sets out from San José just before midnight, speeding along the deserted highway in the automobile, past the sleeping towns of Heredia and Alajuela, until the little village of San Pedro de Poás, nestling in the foothills, is reached a couple of hours later.

Horses are waiting and no time is lost in commencing the journey to the crater*. As one climbs, the view, if anything, is much more extensive than that obtained from Irazú, and San José and nearly all the other towns of the central plateau may be located by their twinkling lights. The summit or, rather, the point at which the horses have to be

* A concrete highway to the summit of the Poás Volcano is being built; when completed, the trip to the crater will be easily made by automobile, very comfortably.



"Boruca" Indians with boat-load of Bananas in the Río Grande de Térraba. Pacific Division of the United Fruit Company.

left on account of the sharp climb of the last few hundred yards to the crater proper, is usually reached just as dawn is breaking.

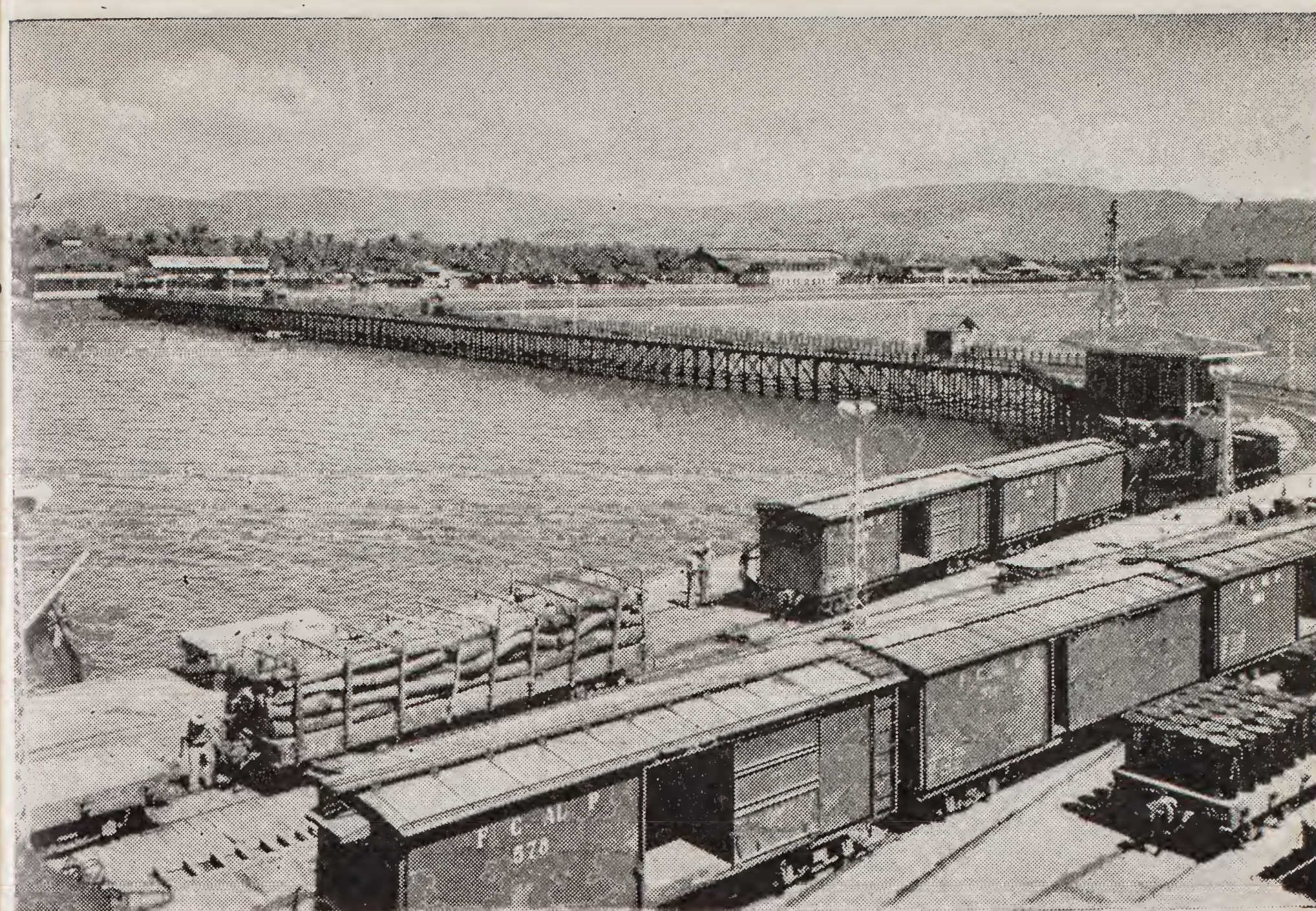
Then comes a few minutes easy climbing on foot and as the first full rays of the morning sun bathe the peak in their golden light the crater is revealed to astonished eyes.

The crater is the world's largest, without exception. It is over a mile in diameter and its vertical walls drop many hundreds of feet before they terminate in the seething, boiling, lake of sulphurous mud which makes Poás not so much a volcano as a gigantic geyser.

Words alone cannot describe this marvel of nature. It has to be seen, not only to be appreciated but *to be believed*. It is unique. The spectator is overwhelmed with awe as he contemplates this great wound in Mother Earth.

One cannot appreciate the vastness of Poás crater even when standing on its very brink. How easy, one imagines, it would be to throw a stone into the middle of the boiling cauldron which lies below! But how impossible to accomplish. The stone flies through the air and lands, not in the lake, but a quarter of a mile this side of it. And to the vastness of the impressive scene must be added the intense silence which pervades the atmosphere, making the visitor feel that somehow he has been privileged to see a phase of the earth's existence long before man came.

There is no beauty about Poás crater. It is ugly from the artist's viewpoint but it is impressive and awe-inspiring beyond words. But there is a worthy compensation for the crater's ugliness. One walks half a mile further and arrives at the site of another and older crater which, at some time



Wharf at Puntarenas

or other in the dim and distant past, must have breathed forth steam and smoke but which Nature, in a fit of generosity, has since converted into one of her fairest jewels, for here we have a crystal clear crater-lake surrounded by the rich verdure of a tropical forest. It is a perfect jewel in a perfect setting.

By now the sun is high and the return has to be made, Breakfast is taken, the descent is made, lunch is taken at San Pedro, and then San José is reached sometime during the afternoon. The trip to Poás, including automobile, horses and guide, costs about \$ 4 per person for a minimum party of four. Meals extra.

Turrialba Volcano

This is another of Costa Rica's spectacular volcanoes, rather farther afield from San José than Poás or Irazú but a highly interesting trip for anyone who does not mind a few hours on horseback. The cost of the round trip, including automobile from San José, horses, guide and a night's lodging in a comfortable farm house, works out at about \$ 4 per head for a party of four or five.

Puntarenas

The chief port of the Pacific coast and the favorite summer resort for the people of San José. Vastly different from Puerto Limón on the Atlantic side, Puntarenas has a definite local atmosphere.

It is connected with San José by a modern electrified railroad and the smooth-running trains will take you down the mountains, whose scenery is not a whit less magnificent and impressive than that on the Atlantic railroad, in approximately four hours.



Typical farm at Guanacaste, Costa Rica.

Puntarenas is a useful centre for many interesting excursions. The grim island of San Lucas at the mouth of the harbor, which serves as the nation's penal settlement, is open to visitors while the neighboring islands of Los Negritos and La Yuca are ideal spots for picnics.

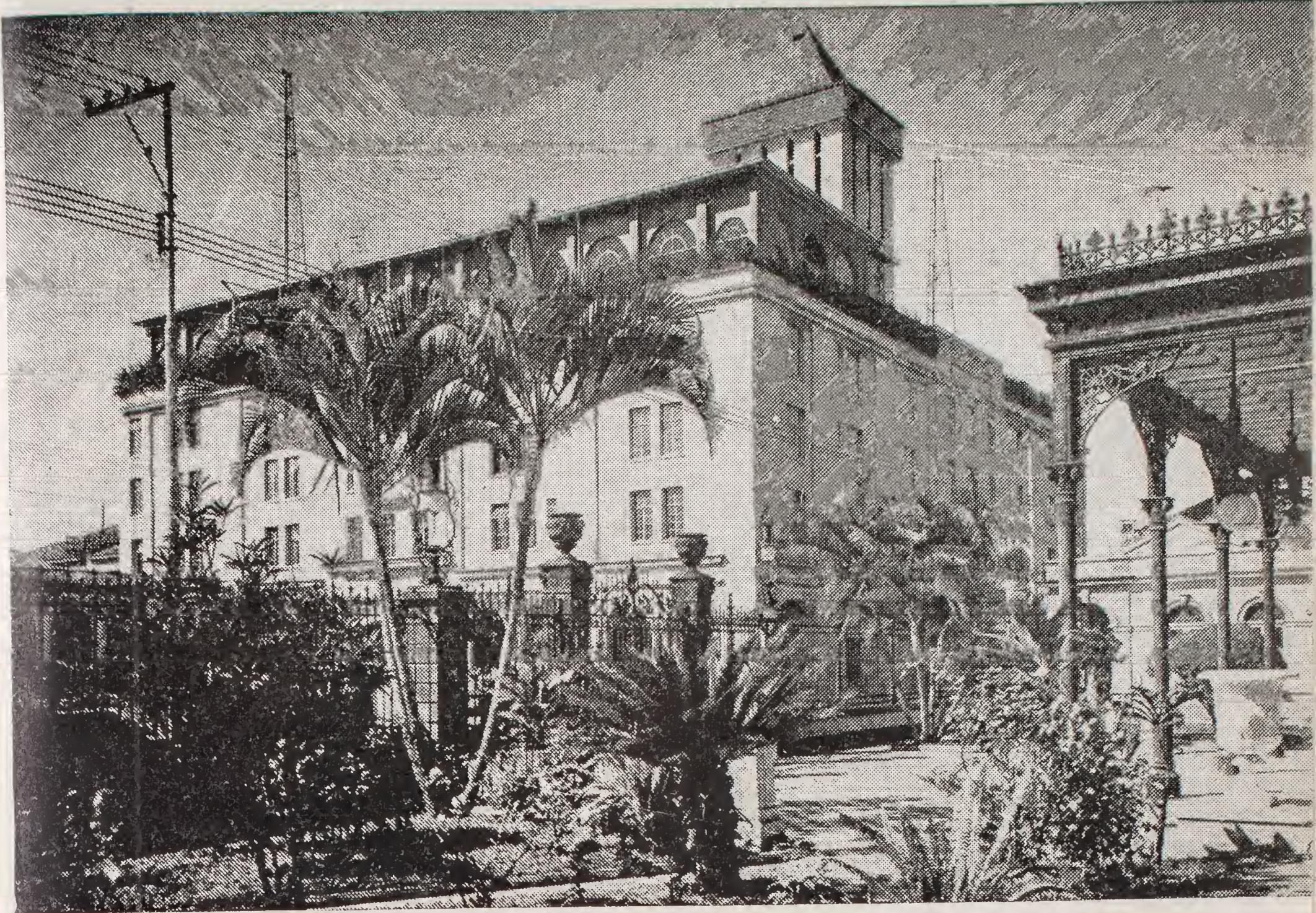
No more fish ever came out of the sea anywhere than comes out at Puntarenas. For the epicure there are lobsters, shrimps, crayfish, crabs and other delicacies. For the fisherman there is deep-sea fishing equal to anything the world over, while still farther out at sea there are sharks and giant mantas (devilfish) to test the skill and daring.

Steamships of many lines regularly call at Puntarenas' fine wharf and it may be that the tourist who has entered the country at Puerto Limón will like to leave by way of Puntarenas. One is as accessible to Panamá as the other.

Guanacaste

Puntarenas is the door to Guanacaste, Costa Rica's famous cattle country where gay cowboys drive their vast herds across big ranches which seem to have no end and no beginning. Guanacaste is a real man's country and the visitor must be prepared to spend his days in the saddle in order to get around. But there are compensations to this primitive mode of travel in plenty. Fine hunting including deer and jaguars, fishing in the rivers, alligator shooting and, above all, a welcome for the visitor on the part of the people of the cattle country whose hospitality knows no bounds.

In Guanacaste you will meet the real son of the soil, uncontaminated and unspoiled by modern civilization, who preserves the centuries-old native customs. This is the home of cowboys and bull-fighters. Thousands of fine cattle graze in



Gran Hotel Costa Rica. — San José.

horizon-wide green pastures whose aspect is little short of park-like.

In Guanacaste will be found a very interesting variety of wild fauna which includes Puma, Deer, Boar, Wild Pig, Squirrels, Monkeys, Wild Turkey, Alligators, Rabbits, Jaguars, Foxes, Possums, Tapirs, Coyotes, *Pizotes*, Quail, Pigeons, Herons, Ducks, *Piches* (waterfowl), Macaws and Eagles. The rivers abound with fish whose native names have no equivalent in English except perhaps the *Salmonete* (small salmon). No special license is required for fishing or shooting game but there is an unwritten law, observed by all good sportsmen, not to kill female deer.

Guanacaste may be reached from San José in about one hour by the fine planes of the local airplane services which call at all important towns and villages almost daily.

Country Resorts

El Rodeo and *La Gloria* are Costa Rica's mountain ranches, within easy reach of San José, where one may enjoy all the delights of horseriding, fishing, swimming, hiking, and other outdoor sports by day and at night relax amid an informal social atmosphere brightened by dances and concerts. The accommodations and cuisine at *La Gloria* and *El Rodeo* are unsurpassed and the visitor may eat either American or Costa Rican style.

For the city worker in search of rest and health a week at either of these ranches will prove a blessing.

(Separate illustrated booklets describing "El Rodeo" and "La Gloria" in detail are obtained on application).



Gran Hotel Europa. — San José.

GENERAL INFORMATION

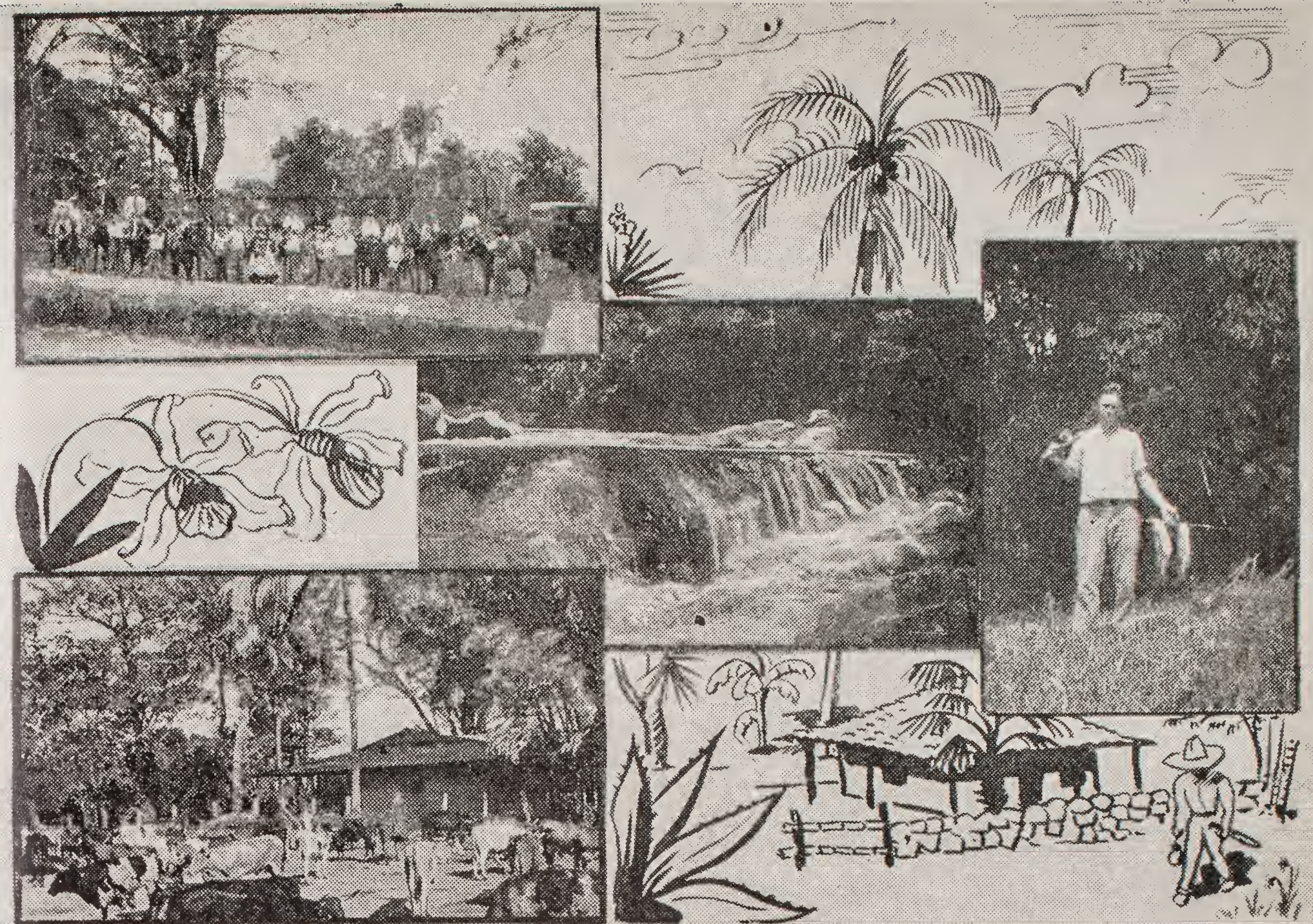
Water and Milk

Visitors to the tropics are usually a little dubious as to the source of the water and milk which they have to drink but as regards Costa Rica in general and San José in particular the visitor need suffer no qualms. The water he drinks is as pure as that he has back home.

San José and, in fact, practically every other town and village throughout the country, enjoy modern water systems fed by the purest of water from uncontaminated mountain streams. The San José reservoir is located at Tres Ríos where all water is properly chlorinated before passing into the mains.

The new waterworks system for the city of Puntarenas is one of the finest installation of its kind. The water comes from an enormous natural spring located high up in the mountains at Ojo de Agua, only sixty minutes ride by automobile from San José. The natural flow is estimated at 6,000 gallons per minute and is piped over sixty miles to Puntarenas. In the dry season it is a worthwhile ride to Ojo de Agua to see the gigantic stream of water issuing from the very bowels on the earth.

Costa Rican milk is of the purest. Dairy stock is bred from champion imported bulls and grazes in rich, green pastures at an altitude where the climate has ideal temperature. Dairies are operated in a scientific, hygienic manner and if the visitor should need visible evidence of this then an automobile ride to Las Nubes, in the heart of the dairy country, is recommended.



"La Gloria" Mountain resort within short distance of San José

Music

No less than being a land of flowers, Costa Rica is a land of music and the memory of the typical and gay *Punto Guanacasteco* will remain with the visitor for many a long day.

Costa Rican Currency

The tourist is advised to acquaint himself with Costa Rica's money at the outset of his visit. By doing so he will obviate those petty annoyances usually associated with the changing of "foreign" money.

The unit of currency is the Colón (₡) which is the largest minted piece. The colón is worth 100 céntimos.

Coins

One colón. Nickel. About the size of a half-dollar.

Half-colón or 50 céntimos. Nickel. About the size of a quarter dollar or a shilling.

25 céntimos. Nickel. Slightly smaller than the half-colón and thinner.

10 céntimos. Copper. Same size as an American cent.

5 céntimos. Copper. Half size of the 10 céntimos piece.

Bank notes

1 colón, 2, 5, 10, 50, and 100 colones.

The notes are issued by the National Bank of Costa Rica, operating under Government charter, and may be accepted with perfect confidence.

The American dollar enjoys freedom of circulation in Costa Rica where notwithstanding its recent depreciation in



"El Rodeo" Mountain resort within short distance of San José

other countries, it still ranks considerably above the par of exchange, which is ₡ 4 to \$ 1, and the visitor may calculate his expenses accordingly. (Present exchange rate is ₡ 5.61 to \$ 1. June 1939).

Traveller's cheques and dollar bills are best changed at one's hotel where the proper rate is invariably given. Sterling and other foreign currencies may also be readily exchanged at current rates.

Clubs

San José is rich in clubs. Practically every foreign colony has its own club whose visitors are always welcome. The German Club possesses a fine swimming pool. The Union Club, opposite the General Post Office, is an architectural gem both inside and out. There are several tennis clubs in the city.

Cable and Radio Services

San José has both cable and radio communication with foreign countries. There is also an efficient radio-telephone service.

Newspapers

Two morning and three afternoon papers are published in San José.

a. m.	"Diario de Costa Rica"	10	céntimos.
	"La Tribuna"	15	"
p. m.	"La Prensa Libre"	10	"
	"La Hora"	5	"
	"Novedades"	5	"



Union Club. — San José.

There are also several minor weeklies published on Saturdays and Sundays.

Lottery

The National Lottery is a legalised institution operated for the benefit of local hospitals. Visitors may accordingly purchase tickets without hesitation. As a rule, there is a drawing twice a month with ₡ 40,000 as the first prize and a host of minor prizes. A whole ticket costs ₡ 10 but for the convenience of those who do not wish to purchase a whole ticket each ticket is divided into ten fractions each of which costs ₡ 1 and shares proportionately in the corresponding prize.

What to Wear

Although Costa Rica is in the tropics, this does not mean that the visitor to San José must wear a white drill suit and a sun helmet as some travel agencies mistakenly advise.

On the coast, at Puerto Limón and Puntarenas, white suits are certainly desirable but for a visit to the cool capital the same lightweight woollen suits which one wears back home are the correct clothing. In the daytime palm beach suits may frequently be worn with comfort but the evenings are often quite cool and may even demand the use of a topcoat from December, to March.

Evening dress is not essential in San José for the oneday visitor but the person who intends to stay for some time should bring his tuxedo for the many social functions which he will have the opportunity of attending.



Coffee harvesters

These clothing hints are mainly for gentlemen. The ladies will, of course, please themselves in the matter of dress.

Those who plan to visit the volcanoes or otherwise go horse riding should bring riding kit and a warm jacket or sweater. These items may, however, be purchased quite cheaply in San José.

Automobiles

San José is well equipped with taxis for which the usual rate is \$1.00 per hour for one to four persons. An English-speaking chauffeur may be had by arrangement. A short ride within the city limits costs ₡ 1.00.

Temperature

San José enjoys a most equable climate.

The average daily temperature is 22° Cent, or 72° Fahr.

When you leave Costa Rica

Be sure and let us know what you think about our country. Tell us what you liked most and what you liked least so that, if necessary, we may attempt to remedy any faults you have discovered.

Remember, too, that the National Tourist Board is always ready to purchase attractive photographs taken in the country so if among the many you are sure to take you have some which you think worthy of reproduction, send them along. We shall be glad to pay for all those accepted.



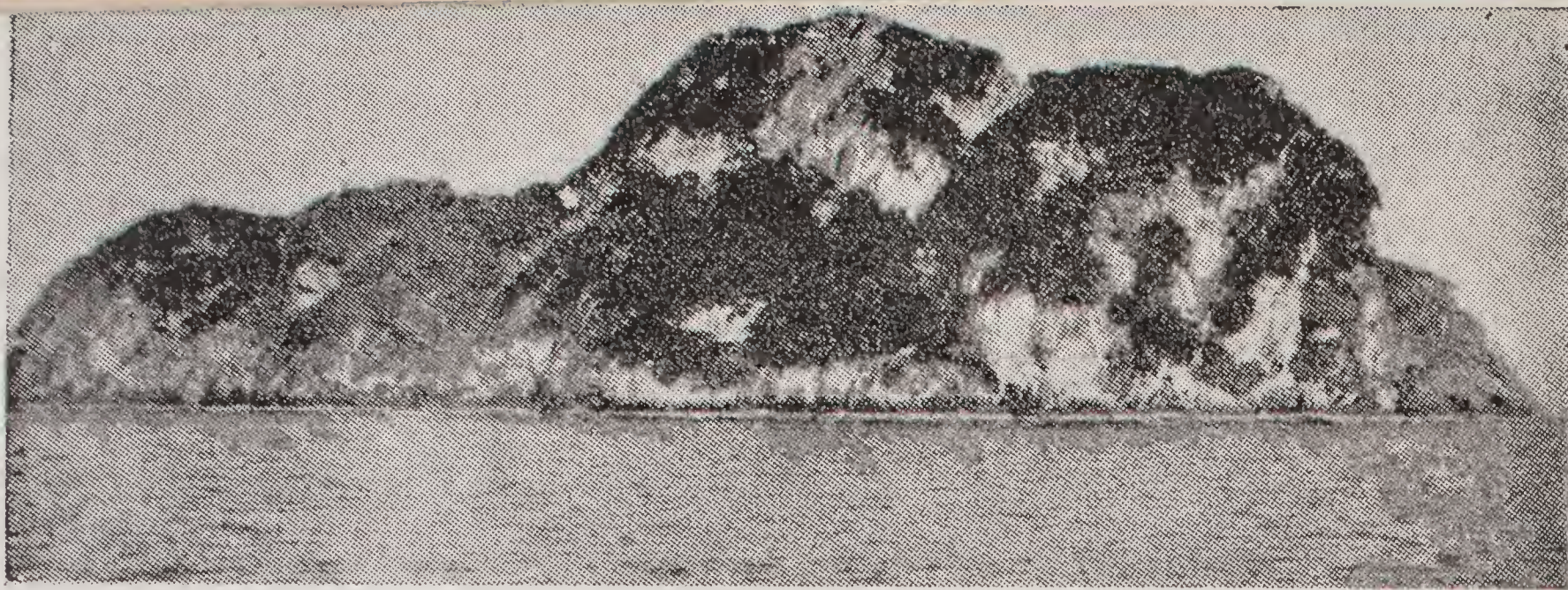
Bathing beach at Puntarenas, on the Pacific Coast

PACIFIC RAILROAD

PRINCIPAL STATIONS	Distance from San José Miles	Distance from Puntarenas Miles	ALTITUDE		TIMES AND FARES
			Feet	Meters	
San José	0.0	72.5	3770	1150	LEAVES: 8 a. m. DAILY
Sabana	2.5	70.0	3584	1090	
Pavas	4.4	68.1	3344	1020	
San Antonio	9.4	63.1	2983	910	
Ojo de Agua	11.9	60.6	2731	833	
Ciruelas	14.6	57.9	2642	806	First class fare: San José to Puntarenas ₡ 7.50 Chair car ₡ 5.00 extra.
Turrúcares	19.4	53.1	2079	634	
Atenas	23.7	48.8	1508	460	
Balsa	26.2	46.3	1403	428	
Escobal	31.3	41.2	1115	340	
Quebradas	33.1	39.4	1036	316	
Concepción	35.0	37.5	820	250	
Hacienda Vieja	39.4	33.1	852	260	
Orotina	41.9	30.6	656	200	
Coyolar	44.4	28.1	548	167	
Cascajal	50.0	22.5	518	158	
Caldera	58.1	14.4	20	3	
Barranca	63.7	8.8	98	30	
Puntarenas	72.5	0.0	10	3	
					ARRIVES: 12 noon

Note: Daily train leaves Puntarenas for San José at 1 p. m.
(See sectional map at end of book).

The National Tourist Board will be glad to receive requests from foreign Newspapers and Magazines for photographs—scenery, events and customs—which will be supplied free of charge, for reproduction purposes.



Coco's Island. Sea bird sanctuary, on the Pacific.

COCOS ISLAND

It is not generally known that Cocos Island, the lonely "Treasure Island" of the Pacific Ocean, belongs indisputably to Costa Rica.

During the past hundred years, as many expeditions, mostly British, have gone to Cocos Island to try to find its legendary buried pirate treasure whose value is estimated at \$ 100,000,000. Whether there is really any treasure hidden on Cocos Island is a highly debatable subject but there is no question as to the more tangible treasures of Cocos Island, namely, its scenic beauty and its magnificent fishing. The waters around Cocos Island abound with fish, large and small, ranging from tiny bream to giant sharks, and



Treasure hunters' camp—Coco's Island.



Searching for buried treasure in Coco's Island



Cocos Island — North Coast

will furnish neverending sport for the deep-sea fisherman. President Roosevelt himself has twice been to Cocos to enjoy its fine fishing.

Cocos Island is normally uninhabited and consequently there is no accommodation on the island itself. But those who possess their own yachts, whether large or small, in which to visit Cocos will find the island a perfect paradise whether they go to fish or merely to play "Robinson Crusoe".

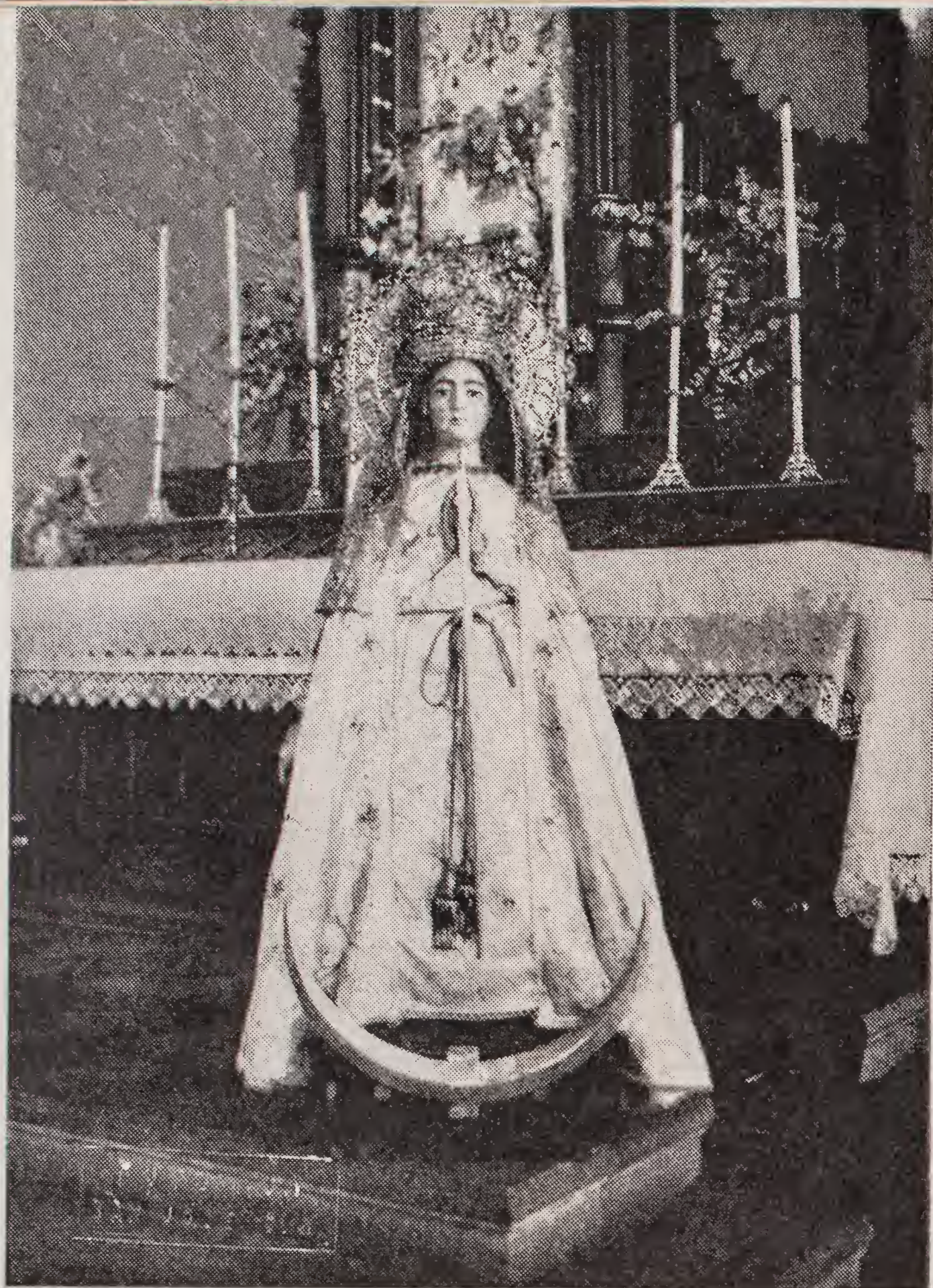
The government of Costa Rica will grant permission to all responsible persons to visit Cocos Island provided that application is made through the proper channels. The National Tourist Board will be glad to facilitate all such requests which are submitted to it in the first instance.



A morning's catch



Treasure hunters



Our Lady of Ujarrás. Primitive patroness of Costa Rica.
Paraíso, Costa Rica.

Ujarrás

This is an indian name—. When the Spaniards arrived in Costa Rica, the Valley of Ujarrás was populated by a tribe of Güetar indians. Don Francisco Destrada was the first Spaniard to visit Ujarrás, away back in 1561.

The Franciscan monks who used a distinctive blue habit, founded the Parish during the third quarter of the Sixteenth Century.

The King Phillip the II., King of Spain, made a present of the image to the Franciscan monk Lorenzo de Bienvenida, in 1565. The title of "Our Lady of the Pure Clean Conception of Ujarrás" was given to it in 1666. The reason for it was this: In April of that year, the British pirates, Mansfield and Morgan, landed at Portete in the neighborhood of what is now Port Limón, with 500 of their men, intending to capture that Province.

The Spanish Governor of that Province Don Juan López de la Flor, mustered a force of between 300 and 600 men, and they threw up breastworks in the vicinity of Quebrada Honda—while in Cartago and in Ujarrás, all the inhabitable flocked to their churches to pray for the assistance of Divine Providence.

When the Pirates arrived at Quebrada Honda, for no plausible reason that could be ascertained they turned back and fled at top speed panic stricken and the Province was miraculously saved Christian piety attributed this flight of the pirates to the intervention of the Holy Virgin and tradition insists that some apparition or miracle forced them to run back to their ships. As an act of Thanksgiving for this special divine favor the authorities made a solemn promise to our Lady of Redemption which is faithfully observed.

In 1723, when due to the eruption of the Irazú Volcano, the image was taken to Cartago by a procession of faithful pilgrims, being kept in that city for three whole days.

Costa Rica - Chief Historical Dates

1502.—18 September. Columbus landed at Cariari, an Indian village where now stands Puerto Limón.

1522.—First colonizing expedition of the Spaniards under Captain Gil González Dávila. The expedition marched a total of 750 miles, baptized 32,000 Indians and collected over one million colones in gold.

1524.—Bruselas, the first Spanish settlement in Costa Rica, established by Francisco Fernández de Córdoba near where Puntarenas now stands.

1539.—Discovery of the River San Juan between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. First use of the name "Costa Rica" (Rich Coast) by the Spaniards.

1561.—Cattle first introduced by Juan de Cavallón.

1562-3.—Pacification of the Indians by Juan Vázquez de Coronado.

1564.—Cartago founded.

1569.—Slavery of the Indians established.

1572.—Completion of the conquest of Costa Rica by the Spaniards.

1575.—Boundaries of Costa Rica defined by the King of Spain.

1601.—Road built from Cartago to Chiriquí, in Panamá, to facilitate commerce between the two provinces

1605.—Conquest of Talamanca.

1665.—Invasion of Costa Rica by the English pirates Mansfield and Morgan who landed at Portete, near Puerto Limón, with 700 men and marched as far as Turrialba, retiring almost immediately in the face of the Spanish resistance.

1666-76.—Frequent pirates raids on the Atlantic coast.

1681.—Pirate attempt to capture Cartago frustrated.

1684-6.—English pirates ravage the Pacific coast. City of Esparza sacked by pirates in 1685 and again in 1686.

1693-1720.—Frequent slave raids on the Atlantic coast, the captured Indians being carried by English slave raiders to Jamaica and Curacao.

1723.—Violent eruption of Irazú volcano.

1724-26.—Further depredations by English pirates on the Atlantic coast.

1747.—Capture of San Fernando Fort, at the mouth of the River Matina, by English pirates under Thomas Owens.

1756.—Revolt of the Mosco Indians who captured and assassinated Francisco Fernández de la Pastora, the governor of the province of Costa Rica.

1821.—15 September. Declaration of Independence.

1823.—Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica jointly form the Republic of Central America.

1826.—Abortive attempt of royalists at Cartago to restore Costa Rica to the Spanish crown.

1835.—Civil war between the people of San José and Cartago.

1838.—Costa Rica declares its separation from the Central American Republic.

1848.—Costa Rica declared an independent and sovereign state.

1855.—Invasion of Nicaragua by the American adventurer, William Walker, with the object of re-establishing slavery in the five Central American republics.

1856.—February. Costa Rica declares war on Walker. An army 9,000 and a national loan of 100,000 pesos raised for this purpose.

March 19.—Battle of Santa Rosa near Liberia in Guanacaste, the Costa Ricans under General José Joaquín Mora putting Walker's filibusters to flight and taking many prisoners who were all shot without mercy.

April 11.—Battle of Rivas in which Costa Rica's national hero, Juan Santamaría, lost his life in his successful attempt to dislodge Walker's filibusters from their stronghold by firing it.

1857.—May 1. Walker capitulates to General José Joaquín Mora at the second Battle of Rivas.

1890.—Completion of the Atlantic railroad.

1917-1919.—Dictatorship of President Federico A. Tinoco.

1917.—May 23. Costa Rica declares war on Germany.

1919.—August. 10.—President Tinoco ousted.

1921.—Boundary dispute resulting in war with Panamá. Settled by the mediation of U. S. A.

1932.—February. Ricardo Jiménez, the grand old man of Costa Rican politics, elected President for the third time.

1936.—February. Election of President León Cortés by the greatest majority of votes in the history of Costa Rica.

Brief Geographical Data

Situation.—Costa Rica is situated approximately between the latitudes 8° and 10° north of the equator, and between longitudes 83° and 86° west of Greenwich.

Boundaries.—North: the Republic of Nicaragua. South: the Republic of Panamá East: the Atlantic Ocean. West: the Pacific Ocean.

Configuration.—The Atlantic coast is generally unindented and is very swampy in parts.

The Pacific coast is deeply indented and has many fine inlets, notably Culebra Bay and the Gulfs of Nicoya and Osa (Golfo Dulce) which offer safe harbor to large fleets.

Dimensions.—The area of Costa Rica is roughly 50,000 square kilometers or 17,500 square miles. It is the smallest but one of the five Central American republics. The smallest is Salvador, which is about half the size of Costa Rica.

General Topography.—Extensive plains line the coast, especially in Guanacaste in the north-west and in the region of San Carlos and the Tortugueros in the north-east. As one crosses the continent these plains give place to high mountain ranges which traverse the country from northwest to south-east. These mountains, which form part of the main backbone of the Americas which stretches from the Rocky Mountains in the north to the Andes in the south, are known as the Guanacaste, Central and Talamanca Cordilleras. The highest peak is Chirripó (12,555 feet).

Volcanoes.—There are several volcanoes in Costa Rica, mostly inactive. The most important are Irazú (11,322 feet), Poás (9,000 feet), Barba (10,000 feet), and Turrialba (10,560 feet).

Rivers.—Three are many rivers to drain away the waters of both the Atlantic and the Pacific watersheds. The most important are the San Carlos, Reventazón, Sixola, Tárcoles, and Diquis.

Climate.—Owing to the sharp differences in elevation over a comparatively small area, the climate is likewise vastly different in various parts of the country.

On the coasts one finds the full heat of the tropics. Climbing to the central plateau one enjoys a temperate, equable climate which is fairly constant all the year round. Higher up in the mountains the temperature falls sharply at night. Snow and frost are unknown.

Minerals.—Costa Rica is rich in minerals although to a great extent still unexploited. Gold, silver, manganese, iron, mercury, lead, sulphur, coal, petroleum, chinaclay and copper all exist in varying quantities.

Vegetation.—Every kind of vegetation is to be found in Costa Rica, ranging from the tropical palms, ferns and bananas of the coast to the rubber, coffee, and oranges of the temperate central plateau, while high up in the mountains are many pines, cypresses and cedars.

Population.—The inhabitants of Costa Rica number about 600,000, or the least populated of the five Central American countries. Fully three quarters live in the Central Plateau, the remaining fourth being sparsely scattered in remote corners of the republic.

Products.—Costa Rica produces Coffee, Bananas, Sugar, Cocoa, Corn, Beans, Rice, Pineapples, Oranges and other tropical fruits.

Cattle are raised in large quantities. Various hardwoods are exported.

Government.—Costa Rica is an independent republic. The government is divided into the legislative, the executive and the judiciary. The National Congress consists of 43 deputies, half of whom are elected every two years for a period of four years.

The President of the Republic is elected by popular vote every four years. The President nominates his own cabinet.

Costa Rica enjoys democratic government in every sense of the word and nowhere in the world will one find greater regard for such rights of free peoples as free speech, freedom of the press, religious liberty and non persecution of political opponents.

Tourist immigration regulations

Visitors to Costa Rica who do not propose to remain in the country for more than 30 days are known officially as "tourists" and as such are exempted from the normal immigration requirements. The 30-day period may, however, be extended to 60 or 90 days. Requests for such extensions of stay should preferably be lodged with the National Tourists Board.

Every tourist must be in possession of a valid passport duly visé by the Costa Rican consul at the point of departure. Tourists travelling in organized groups are exempt from this requirement.

Every tourists must have in his possession a return steamer or airplane ticket to ensure his eventual departure from Costa Rica. In the absence of a return ticket, a deposit of the same value may be required.

In certain instances a tourist may be required to lodge his passport with the authorities at the port of entry. A receipt is given and on leaving the country the passport will be returned to the tourist in exchange for the receipt.

Tourists who enter Costa Rica as members of an organized group travelling without passports should make sure that they receive from the purser of the ship on which they are travelling identity card so that in case of any difficulty they will be able to prove the legality of their presence in the country.

Passengers on steamers calling at Costa Rican ports may enter the country freely and without restriction provided they are continuing their journey on the same ship. In such cases the identity card mentioned in the previous paragraph must be obtained from the purser prior to landing.

Tourists may not engage in any remunerative occupation or business while in Costa Rica. Authors and artists are naturally not included in this prohibition. Commercial travellers who enter the country as tourists may engage in their lawful business subject to the special regulations governing such cases.

Steamship companies which bring tourists to Costa Rica will be held responsible that all such tourists leave the country within the prescribed period.

Tourists who desire to remain in Costa Rica permanently or of a longer period than three months should consult the National Tourist Board which will be glad to assist them in obtaining official permission to qualify as permanent residents.

CUSTOMS LAWS AND REGULATIONS WHICH MIGHT AFFECT PASSENGERS INTO COSTA RICA

Article 1.—Every passenger who arrives at any of the ports of the Republic may land with his baggage, as soon as the Port physician has discharged his official duties; in case landing is made at night, or after the Custom House has closed for the day, he will be permitted to take ashore some of his personal effects, until he can claim his baggage from the Customs.

Article 2.—No tax or Customs duties will be collected upon, and the following articles will be classified as baggage:

- a) The necessary articles for the trip, such as clothing, jewelry and personal effects, toilet articles and medicines which may be in use by the traveller and which cannot be sold commercially.
- b) Bedclothing and tablecloths, etc., already in use, including mattresses and pillows.
- c) Up to half a kilogramme of smoking tobacco for each adult person.
- d) Printed books and manuscripts already in use.
- e) Camera or moving picture camera, portable type, with six films.
- f) Portable typewriter or portable adding machine already in use.
- g) Second-hand sporting articles, baby-carriage and toys belonging to passenger's children.
- h) Tools and instruments in use, brought in by the owner who uses them in his trade or profession.
- i) A second-hand music instrument, excepting piano, organ or harmonium.
- j) Binoculars.

Baggage handling at ports is performed by licensed porters who will take charge of a passenger's baggage at the ship, see it through the customs and put it on the train, and vice versa. Passengers should not contract the handling of their baggage with persons who do not display the official porter badge (FAQUIN). Passengers are advised to consult the official tariff beforehand and so obviate difficulties which might arise later as a result of misunderstanding about price.

Tourists entering Costa Rica in an organized travel group with the intention of remaining only one night in the country, are exempt from customs inspection. Such tourists may introduce small handbags but not trunks. The customs officers reserve the right to inspect all such handbags at their discretion.

E N T A **THE PIONEERS OF COMERCIAL AVIATION IN COSTA RICA** SAN JOSE, Telephone Numbers: 3596 - 3785 COSTA RICA

Swift Service — Comfortable — Economical

SPECIAL TRIPS

Fly over Costa Rica's picturesque volcanoes and carry back home with you the thrill a lifetime.

Make your short stay in Costa Rica a really worthwhile vacation by seeing the country from one of our comfortable planes.

Sightseeing trips for parties of six, eight nine or twelve passengers arranged at very moderate prices.

PUERTO LIMON: Tourists are reminded that the return to Puerto Limón from San José may be made by airplane in a matter of only 45 minutes. The fare is \$ 10 per passengers with a minimum party of six. Lightweight suitcases are carried without extra charge.

Similarly, passengers from Puerto Limón to San José may arrange to have a special plane meet them on arrival of steamer.

Arrangements can be made at the Information Desk in the Gran Hotel Costa Rica or in the E. N. T. A. offices on the west side of Central Park, facing the Cathedral.

Phones: Office, 3596. Hangar, 3592.

Agent in Puerto Limón: Thos. P. McGuinness.

AEROVIAS NACIONALES

Empresa ROMAN MACAYA

Airplane Services to

Puntarenas and Guanacaste: Daily.
 Parrita: Daily.

Paquita, Quepos, Boca Naranjo:
 Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Port Limón: Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Sixola: Wednesdays only.

Barra Colorado: Saturdays only.

Managua (Nicaragua): Thursdays only.

Puerto Cortés and Puerto Jiménez:
 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Short flights above San José, not less than three passengers, — Ten colones (¢ 10.00) per passenger.

Pleasure flights anywhere, at any time, provided weather permits them.

Express flights to Port Limón, not less than five (5) passengers, at Dollars (\$ 10.00) per passenger.

HEADQUARTERS OF AEROVIAS NACIONALES

OPPOSITE CORNER TO GENERAL POST OFFICE

Telephone: 4201

The round trips are specially recommended as a cheap and easy way to see Costa Rica from the air.

SPECIAL TRIPS

Short trips over San José, minimum 2 passengers, ¢ 10.00 per passenger.

Sightseeing trips anywhere, anytime, weather and other conditions permitting, for any number of passengers up to 7, \$ 50 per hour inclusive.

Trips over Poás and Irazú volcanoes, lasting about one hour, for any number passengers up to 7, \$ 50 per hour inclusive.

Puerto Limón to San José, \$ 10 per passenger for a minimum of 7 passengers. Agent meets all tourists boats.

TRANSPORTES AEREOS COSTARRICENSES

T A C

(STRICTLY NATIONAL COMPANY)

Owens up-to-date powerful airplanes,
 "Hamilton - Curtis Wright Osprey"
 and "Curtis Wright Thrush"

Also a small airplane for express trips.
 Daily service to San Isidro and Parrita.
 On Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays flights to the South:

Potrero Grande.

Volcán.

Buenos Aires.

La Cuesta.

Puerto Jiménez.

Puerto Cortés, and

Palmares.

Please Note that service to San Isidro and to Parrita is made daily.

RADIO BROADCASTING IN COSTA RICA

Many interesting programs are transmitted from Costa Rica radio broadcasting stations. Tune in on them when you get back home and revive pleasant memories of your visit to Costa Rica.

The principal radio stations are listed below.

(In order of frequency)

LONG WAVE

TI5-CV	575	100	Ecos del Poás, Carlos Videche, Alajuela
TI-GPH	605	1000	Alma Tica, Gonzalo Pinto H., San José
TI-LPG	625	5000	La Voz de la Víctor, Claudia Martínez, San José
TI-GPH	650		(En construcción), Gonzalo Pinto H., San José
TI-GH	690	1000	América Latina, Gonzalo García, San José
TI4-NRH	725	750	La Voz del Comercio, Amando Céspedes, Heredia
TI-NG	750	375	Reina del Espacio, Narciso García, San José
TI-LJ	775	450	San José, Lola Monge P., San José
TI-XD	800	1000	Voz de la República, Andrea Venegas, San José
TI-EP	830	3000	La Voz del Trópico, Eduardo Pinto H., San José
TI-EMC	860	250	Radio El Mundo, Rafael Hine Ch., San José
TI-LS	880	500	Para Tí, Luis Sáenz Mata, San José
TI-AFB	900	600 Mayid Barzuna, San José
TI-RS	925	200	Athenea, Rogelio Sotela B., San José
TI-OS	940	500	Titania, Guillermo Castro S., San José
TI-FA	1000	250	La Voz de Italia, Francisco Arié, San José
TI-SMG	1030	500	Radio Costa Rica, Guillermo Zúñiga R., San José
TI-NBC	1070	5000	(En construcción), Oscar Martínez N., San José
TI-RCC	1200	500	Acción Católica, Prbo. Carlos Borge, San José
TI-GPH-2	1225	1000	Nueva Alma Tica, Gonzalo Pinto H., San José

SHORT WAVE

TI-GPH	5824	1000	Alma Tica, Gonzalo Pinto H., San José
TI7-RVM	6035	500	La Voz del Guanacaste, Rubén Venegas M., Las Juntas
TI-EMC	6150	250	Radio El Mundo, Rafael Hine Ch., San José
TI-LS	6165	2000	Para Tí, Luis Sáenz Mata, San José
TI-PG	9615	2000	La Voz de la Víctor, Claudia Martínez, San José
TI-RCC	6550	500	Acción Católica, Prbo. Carlos Borge, San José
TI-EP	6700	1000	La Voz del Trópico, Eduardo Pinto H., San José
TI4-NRH	9692	750	La Voz de Costa Rica, Amando Céspedes, M., Heredia

POSTAL RATES

Letters to U. S. A., Spain and all countries of the Panamerican Postal Union,
 20 grammes, 10 céntimos.

Each additional 20 grammes, 5 c.

Postcards, 8 céntimos.

Letters to all other foreign countries, 20 grammes, 20 c.

Each additional 20 grammes, 10 c.

Postcards 10 céntimos.

Airmail letters to U. S. A. ¢ 1.40 per 15 grammes or fraction thereof.

Airmail letters to Europe ¢ 1.50 per 15 grammes (½ ounce).

HOTELS

San José

Gran Hotel Costa Rica	From	\$ 5.00 to \$ 8.00 per day.
(Special rates for commercial men and extended stays)		
Gran Hotel Europa	From	\$ 3.50 to \$ 6.00 per day.
Gran Hotel Continental	From	1.50 per day.
Gran Hotel Rex	From	1.50 to 2.50 per day.
Gran Hotel Metrópoli	From	1.25 to 1.50 per day.
Pensión Alemana	From	2.00 to 3.00 per day.
Pensión Italiana Vicarioli	From	1.50 to 2.00 per day.

Cartago

Hotel Francés	From	1.00 to	1.25 per day.
Pensión Washington	From	1.00	per day.

Puerto Limón

Park Hotel	From	2.00 to	3.00 per day.
Pensión Costa Rica	From	1.50 to	2.00 per day.

Puntarenas

Gran Hotel Europa	From	1.75 to	2.50 per day.
Hotel Imperial	From	1.50	per day.

Country Resorts

El Rodeo (see page 36). \$ 3 per day. \$ 18 per week. \$ 75 per month. Prices include use of horses and guides. Special rates for children. (For further information apply to Cruz Rojas Bennett, P. O. Box 508, San José, C. R.)

La Gloria (see page 35). \$ 2.50 per day. \$ 14 per week. \$ 45 per month. No extras. Special rates for families. (For further information apply to Dr. M. Valenzuela Canet, San Miguel de Desamparados, Costa Rica).

Rates customarily include all meals. Special rates by the week or month. Most of the hotels send a uniformed porter to meet all trains and attend to guests' baggage.

NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA

CENTRAL AMERICA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President	Eduardo Carrillo
Vice-President	Carlos Ventura
Treasurer	Juan Fernández Morúa
Secretary and Manager ..	Juan E. Romagosa

Directors	Alfredo Sasso
	Aurelio Esquivel
	Max Gurdíán

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS:

Aurelio Esquivel S.
Nicolás Peña
Perry Girton

OFFICES AND FREE INFORMATION BUREAU,

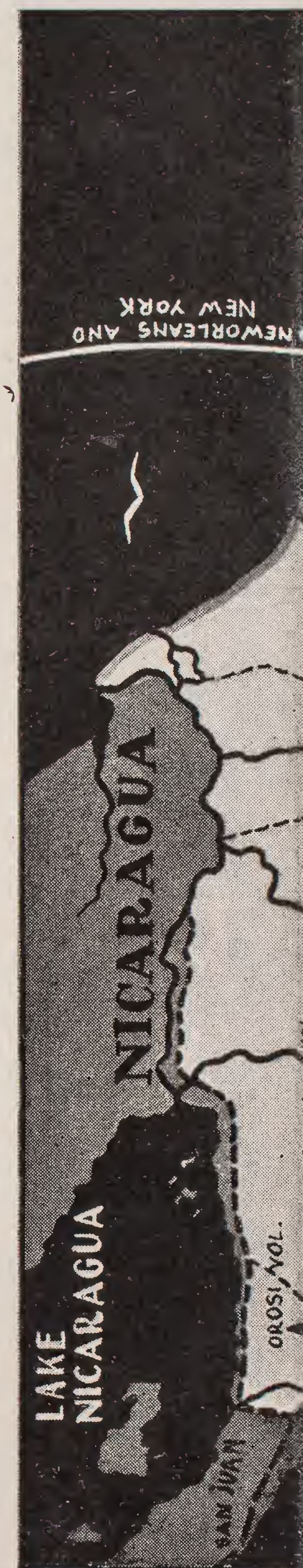
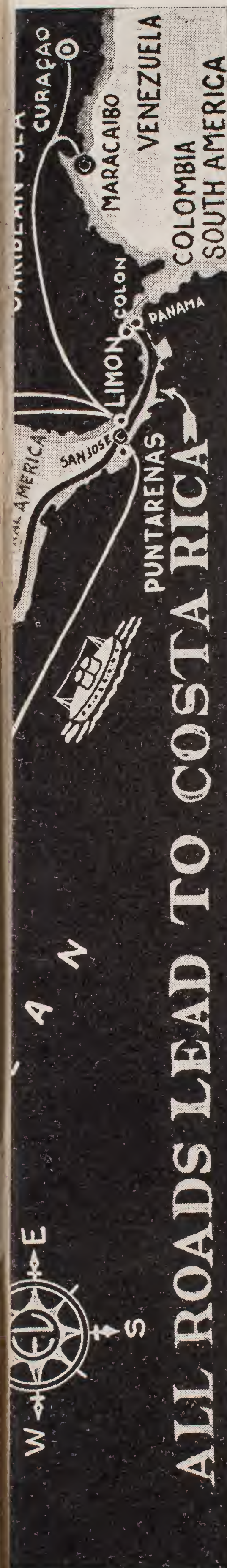
THE ARCADE (LAS ARCADAS)

(Facing National Theatre
Adjoining Gran Hotel Costa Rica)

SAN JOSE

TELEPHONE Nº 3598

BRANCH OFFICES IN LIMON, CARTAGO AND PUNTARENAS



Cartago

Hotel Francés	From . . .	1.00 to	1.25 per day.
Pensión Washington	From . . .	1.00	per day.

Puerto Limón

Park Hotel	From . . .	2.00 to	3.00 per day.
Pensión Costa Rica	From . . .	1.50 to	2.00 per day.

Puntarenas

Gran Hotel Europa	From . . .	1.75 to	2.50 per day.
Hotel Imperial	From . . .	1.50	per day.

Country Resorts

El Rodeo (see page 36). \$ 3 per day. \$ 18 per week. \$ 75 per month. Prices include use of horses and guides. Special rates for children. (For further information apply to Cruz Rojas Bennett, P. O. Box 508, San José, C. R.)
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Rates customarily include all meals. Special rates by the week or month. Most of the hotels send a uniformed porter to meet all trains and attend to guests' baggage.

NATIONAL TOURIST BOARD

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA
CENTRAL AMERICA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Secretary and Manager	Juan E. Romagosa

Directors	Alfredo Sasso
	Aurelio Esquivel
	Max Gudián

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS:

Aurelio Esquivel S.
Nicolás Peña
Perry Girton

OFFICES AND FREE INFORMATION BUREAU,

THE ARCADE (LAS ARCADAS)

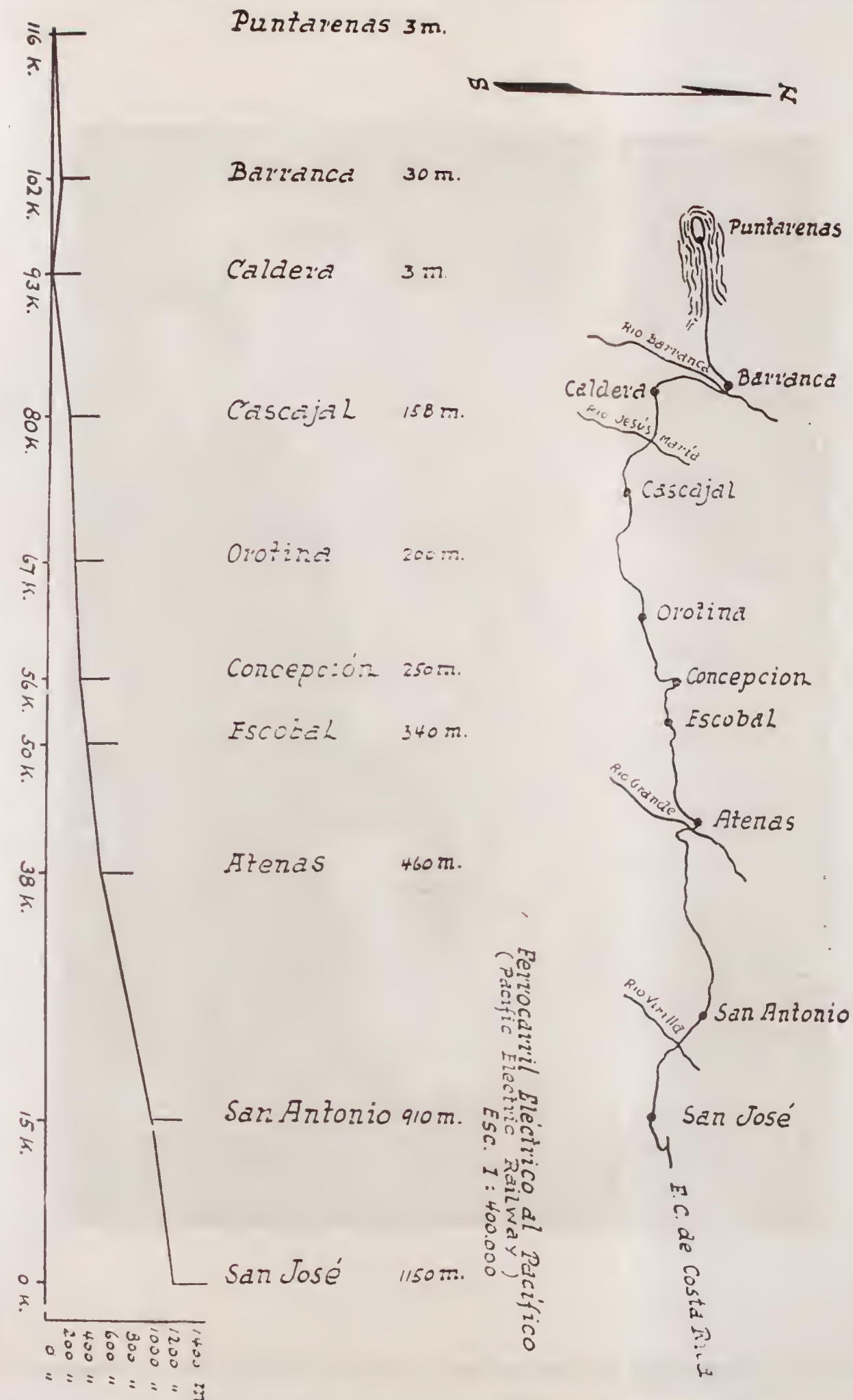
(Facing National Theatre
Adjoining Gran Hotel Costa Rica)

SAN JOSE

TELEPHONE Nº 3598

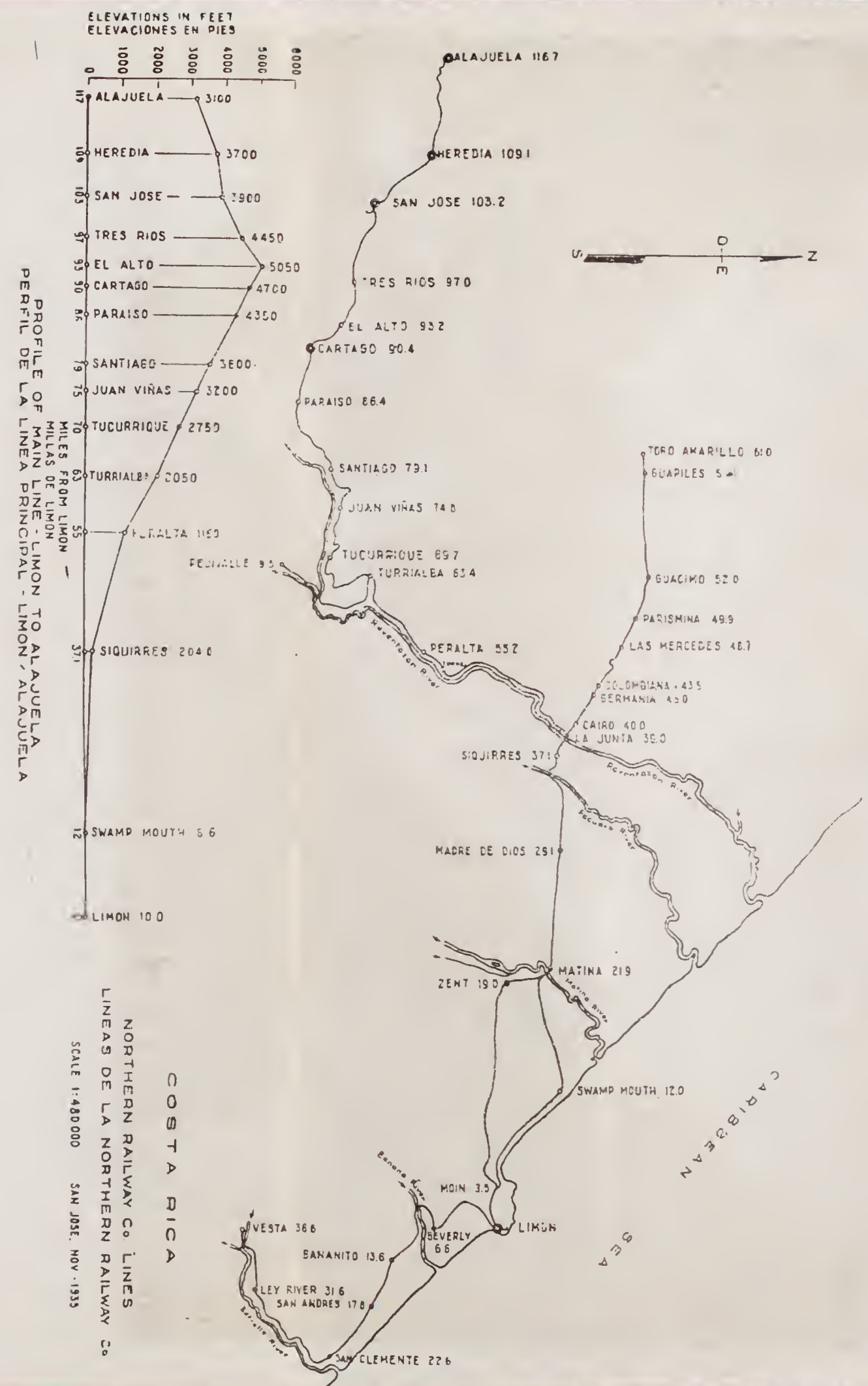
BRANCH OFFICES IN LIMON, CARTAGO AND PUNTARENAS

Perfil de la vía San José - Puntarenas
(Profile of the line - San José to Puntarenas)



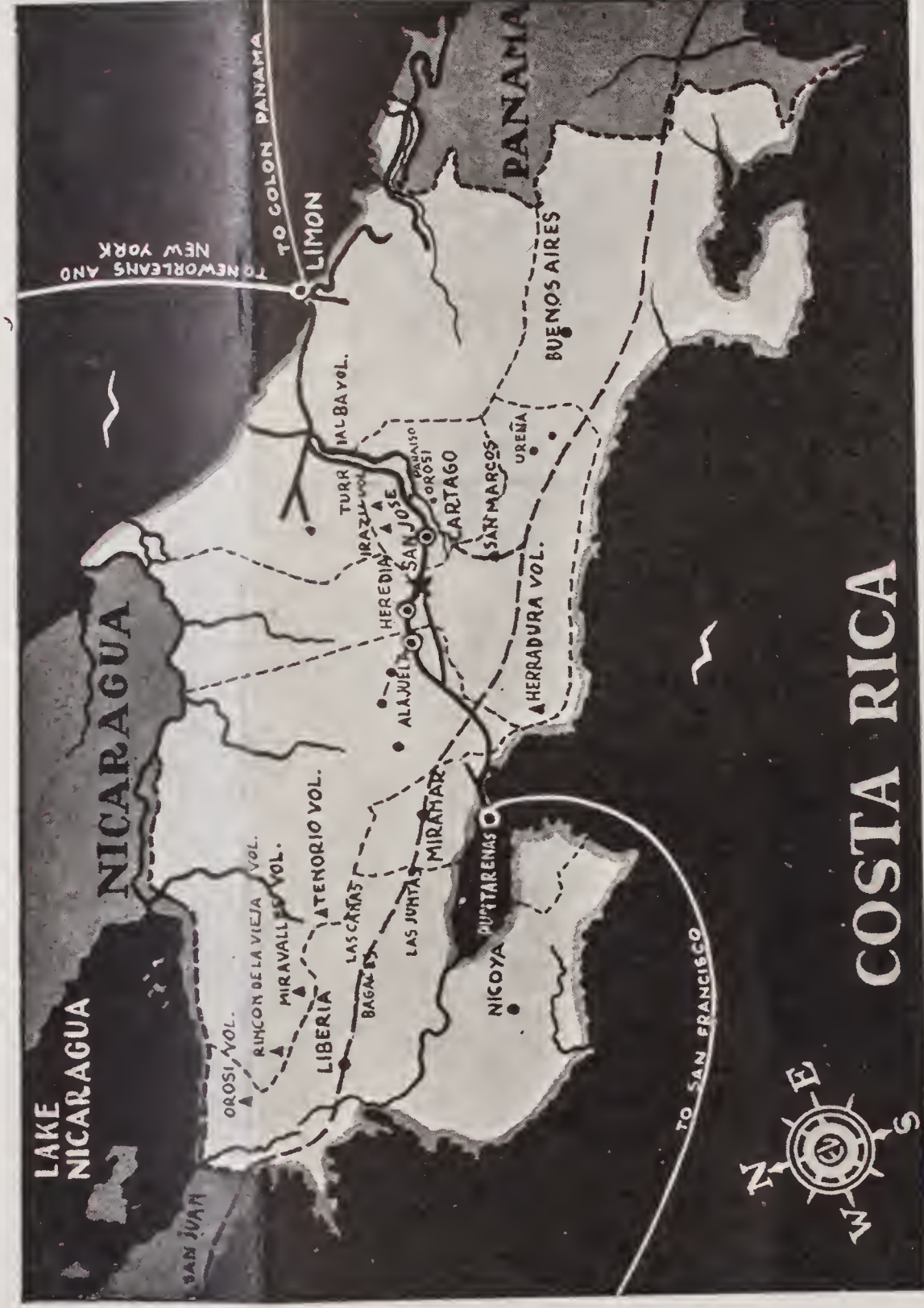
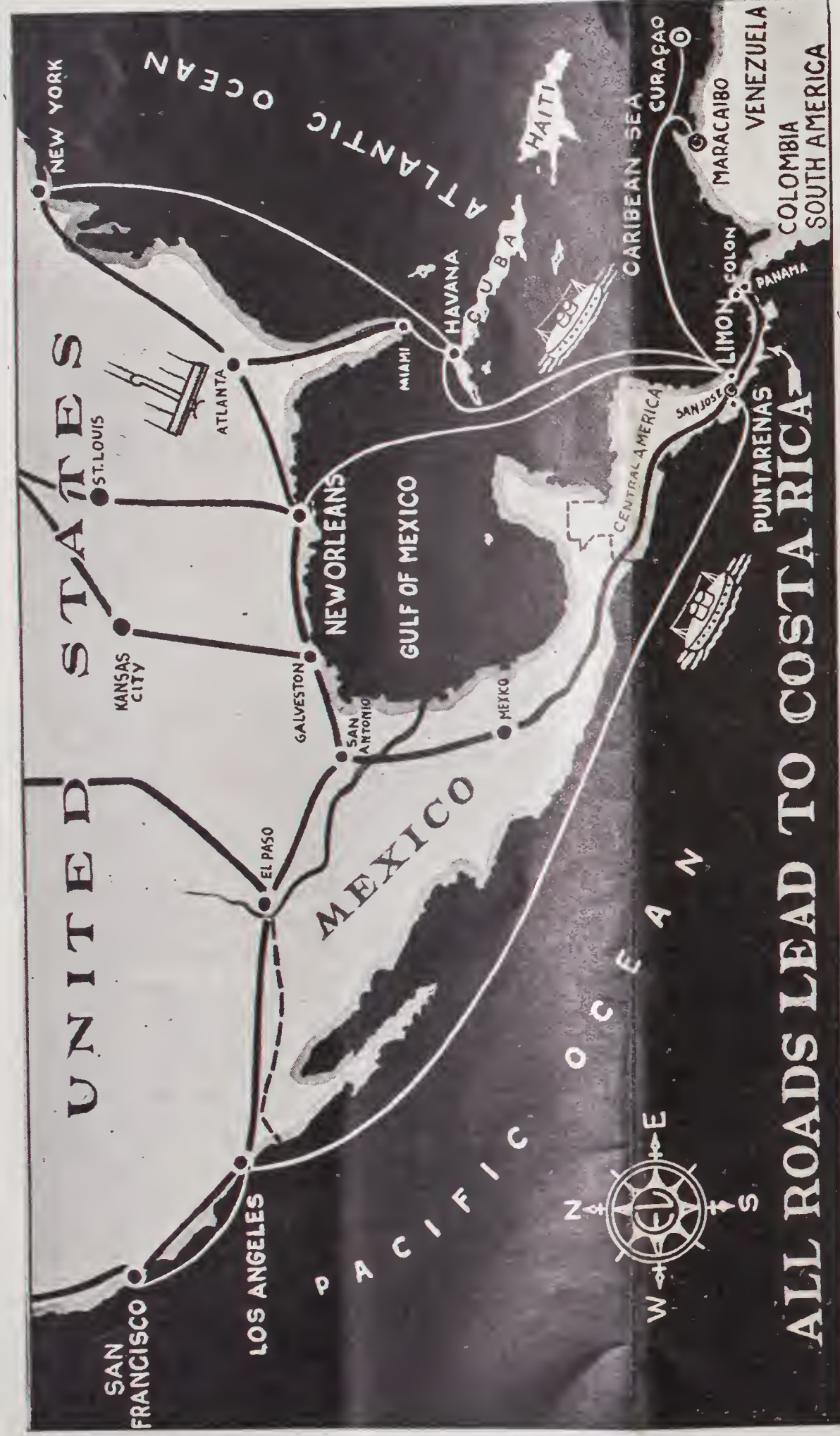
Percorrido Eléctrico al Pacífico
(Pacific Electric Railway)
Esc. 1 : 400,000

RAILROAD FROM PUNTARENAS TO SAN JOSE (PACIFIC SIDE)



COSTA RICA
NORTHERN RAILWAY CO. LINES
LINEAS DE LA NORTHERN RAILWAY CO.
SCALE 1:480,000 SAN JOSE, NOV. 1935

RAILROAD FROM PUERTO LIMON TO SAN JOSE (ATLANTIC SIDE)



WHERE THE WORLD'S CHOICEST COFFEE CROWS.



COSTA RICA

WHERE THE WORLD'S CHOICEST COFFEE CROWS.



LOS UNIVERSAL SAN JOSE, C. R.



15 Day Cruise \$168⁰⁰

**PANAMA CANAL ZONE
COSTA RICA
GUATEMALA
HAVANA**

**HAVANA
PANAMA CANAL ZONE
GUATEMALA
HAVANA (2nd Call)**

EVERY other Saturday one of the spotless American Flag liners of the Great White Fleet sails down to the Panama Canal Zone. Next stop is Costa Rica with time to visit the charming capital city of San José, returning to the steamer then for the cruise up the Central American coast to Puerto Barrios, Guatemala. Back to New York again after a gay day in festive Havana. Outdoor pool, sound movies, real orchestra, famous cuisine.

ON alternate Saturdays the first stop of your Great White Fleet American Flag liner on this cruise is Havana, with plenty of time for all the sightseeing and fun you could desire. Next stop, Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone. Here again there is ample time for shopping and sightseeing, and then on to Guatemala! One more call at Havana before your ship returns to New York. Outdoor pool, sound movies, real orchestra, famous cuisine.

ITINERARY

NEW YORK	Noon
Lv. Saturday	
PANAMA CANAL ZONE	
Cristobal	A.M.
Ar. Thursday	9 P.M.
Lv. Thursday	
COSTA RICA	
Port Limon	A.M.
Ar. Friday	6 P.M.
Lv. Saturday	
GUATEMALA	
Puerto Barrios	P.M.
Ar. Monday	Daylight
Lv. Tuesday	
CUBA	
Havana	A.M.
Ar. Thursday	6 P.M.
Lv. Thursday	
NEW YORK	P.M.
Ar. Sunday	

CRUISE FARES, NEW YORK BACK TO NEW YORK

(Shore Excursions, Taxes and steamer chair charges not included)

SS. VERAGUA, OURIGUA, CHIRIOU, JAMAICA and TALAMANCA	Cruise Fare Per Person
"C" DECK	
Double Cabins without Private Bath	\$168.00
41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55	185.00
Single Cabins without Private Bath	910.00
42, 45, 48, 51, 54	
"B" DECK	
Double Cabins without Private Bath	200.00
19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 25, 24 or 26, 27 or 29, 28 or 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40	
Double Cabins with Private Tub Bath and Toilet	240.00
9, 10, 23 or 25, 24 or 26, 27 or 29, 28 or 30	260.00
Single Cabins without Private Bath	35.36
Single Cabins with Private Shower and Toilet	740.00
11, 14	
Suites	775.00
A, B (with Sitting Room)	
A, B (with Sitting Room)	665.00
Single Cabins with Private Shower and Toilet (equipped with single bed and sofa bed, but only one washbasin)	785.00
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 (see below)	(11 or 13 Persons)
For occupant of single bed	995.00
For occupant of sofa bed	940.00
	168.00

ITINERARY

NEW YORK	Noon
Lv. Saturday	
CUBA	
Havana	P.M.
Ar. Tuesday	5 P.M.
Lv. Wednesday	
PANAMA CANAL ZONE	
Cristobal	A.M.
Ar. Saturday	Midnight
Lv. Saturday	
GUATEMALA	
Puerto Barrios	A.M.
Ar. Tuesday	6 P.M.
Lv. Tuesday	
CUBA	
Havana	A.M.
Ar. Thursday	6 P.M.
Lv. Thursday	
NEW YORK	P.M.
Ar. Sunday	

SHORE EXCURSIONS OPTIONAL

CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE—By luxurious private cars on a personally conducted tour in and around Cristobal and Colon. Train trip to Panama City. After luncheon at the Hotel Tivoli, Ancon, Canal Zone, on the Pacific side, an automobile trip will be taken around Panama City and suburbs. The return to Cristobal is made by rail. (Adults \$11.00, Children \$7.00.)

PORT LIMON, COSTA RICA—A glorious scenic rail trip of 103 miles will be made to San Jose, the mountain capital. At San Jose passengers will be accommodated in rooms with bath at the Gran Hotel Costa Rica and will be taken on an automobile sightseeing trip through the city and suburbs. The return to Port Limon will be made the next day in parlor car. (Adults \$19.00, Children \$9.50.)

PUERTO BARRIOS, GUATEMALA—When possible a dance will be arranged for passengers at a local club. (No additional cost.)

HAVANA, CUBA—A comprehensive city and suburban sightseeing trip will be taken in private automobiles. (Adults \$3.50, Children \$2.00.)

SHORE EXCURSIONS OPTIONAL

HAVANA, CUBA—A comprehensive city and suburban sightseeing trip will be taken in private automobiles. (Adults \$3.50, Children \$2.00.)

CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE—By luxurious private cars on a personally conducted tour in and around Cristobal and Colon. Train trip to Panama City. After luncheon at the Hotel Tivoli, Ancon, Canal Zone, on the Pacific side, an automobile trip will be taken around Panama City and suburbs. The return to Cristobal is made by rail. (Adults \$11.00, Children \$7.00.)

PUERTO BARRIOS, GUATEMALA—At this port if operating conditions permit, passengers may, at an additional charge of \$5.00 each, make arrangements with the Purser for a trip to the famous Mayan Indian Ruins at Quirigua.

HAVANA (2nd call)—An entire day to do as you please. Plenty of time for shopping and sightseeing.



26 Day ALL-EXPENSE GUATEMALA TOUR \$238

WITH CALLS AT HAVANA, CUBA and HONDURAS

SAILINGS EVERY OTHER SATURDAY FROM NEW YORK ON AN AMERICAN FLAG LINER

HERE'S an all-expense tour combining 12 days of cruising (first-class accommodations with meals), visiting Havana and Honduras, and 14 days exploring Guatemala. There are two plans for the shore program in Guatemala. Both include hotel accommodations with meals for the full time there, railroad transportation in chair cars from Puerto Barrios to Guatemala City and return and automobile sightseeing in Guatemala City. One (Tour A) features a 3 1/2-day automobile trip with special guide into the Highlands beyond Guatemala City, while the other (Tour B) features a 9-day automobile trip with special guide. All-expense fares for Tour A start at \$238.00 and for Tour B at \$298.00. Complete fares for Tour A and Tour B are listed below.

TOUR AND CRUISE FARES, NEW YORK BACK TO NEW YORK

(Taxes, steamer chair charges and shore trips at ports en route not included)

SS. ANTIGUA	TOUR A	TOUR B	12 DAY CRUISE
"C" DECK			
Double Cabins without Private Bath	\$238.00	\$298.00	\$132.00
50, 51, 52	251.00	311.00	145.00
Single Cabins without Private Bath	866.00	126.00	160.00
42, 45, 48, 51, 54			
"B" DECK			
Double Cabins without Private Bath	961.00	991.00	155.00
19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 25, 24 or 26, 27 or 29, 28 or 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40			
Double Cabins with Private Tub Bath and Toilet	991.00	351.00	185.00
9, 10, 23 or 25, 24 or 26, 27 or 29, 28 or 30	306.00	366.00	200.00
Single Cabins without Private Bath	35.36	351.00	185.00
Single Cabins with Private Shower and Toilet	316.00	376.00	210.00
11, 14			
Suites	735.00	855.00	520.00
A, B (with Sitting Room)	(11 or 13 Persons)	(11 or 13 Persons)	(11 or 13 Persons)
A, B (with Sitting Room)	928.00	1119.00	650.00
Single Cabins with Private Shower and Toilet (equipped with single bed and sofa bed, but only one washbasin)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 (see below)	331.00	391.00
For occupant of single bed	991.00	351.00	185.00
For occupant of sofa bed	928.00	298.00	132.00

ITINERARY

Lv. New York, N. Y.	Saturday	1 P.M.
Ar. Havana, Cuba	Tuesday	P.M.
Lv. Havana, Cuba	Wednesday	5 P.M.
Ar. Puerto Barrios, Guatemala	Friday	A.M.
Lv. Puerto Barrios, Guatemala	Saturday	Daylight
Ar. Puerto Cortes, Honduras	Saturday	A.M.
Lv. Puerto Cortes, Honduras	Sunday	Daylight
Ar. New York, N. Y.	Thursday	P.M.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Hotel accommodations with all meals for the full time in the Republic of Guatemala.

Round-trip rail transportation in chair cars Puerto Barrios to Guatemala City and return, with luncheon at Zaca in each direction. Automobile transfer between railroad station and hotel in Guatemala City in both directions. Comprehensive tour of interior Guatemala, including automobile trips in Guatemala City and surrounding country. (See rates for Tours A and B at left.) There will be many points of interest en route, including museums, national parks, volcanoes, lava fields, coffee plantations, cathedrals and native markets.

Note: If the trips in and beyond Guatemala City or any part thereof are cancelled after arrival in Guatemala, the companies who are contracted to perform these services require a cancellation fee of \$90.00 in connection with Tour A or \$50.00 in connection with Tour B, which will be deducted before any refund is allowed.

12 Day GUATEMALA CRUISE \$132

WITH CALLS AT HAVANA, CUBA AND HONDURAS

EVERY other Saturday—a short cruise but a merry one! Only 12 days, but packed with thrills and happy times, touching at Havana, Cuba, Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, and Puerto Cortes, Honduras. A grand, informal cruise served by our S.S. Antigua and bound to hit a high spot with vacationists who want new health, new friends and new scenes. Fares for this cruise are listed at the left.

SHORE EXCURSIONS OPTIONAL

HAVANA, CUBA—A comprehensive city and suburban sightseeing trip will be taken in private automobiles. (Adults \$3.50, Children \$2.00.)

PUERTO BARRIOS, GUATEMALA—When possible a dance will be arranged for passengers at a local club. (No additional cost.)

PUERTO CORTES, HONDURAS—A fifty mile rail trip will be taken through banana plantations and tropical jungles. (Adults or Children \$2.50.)



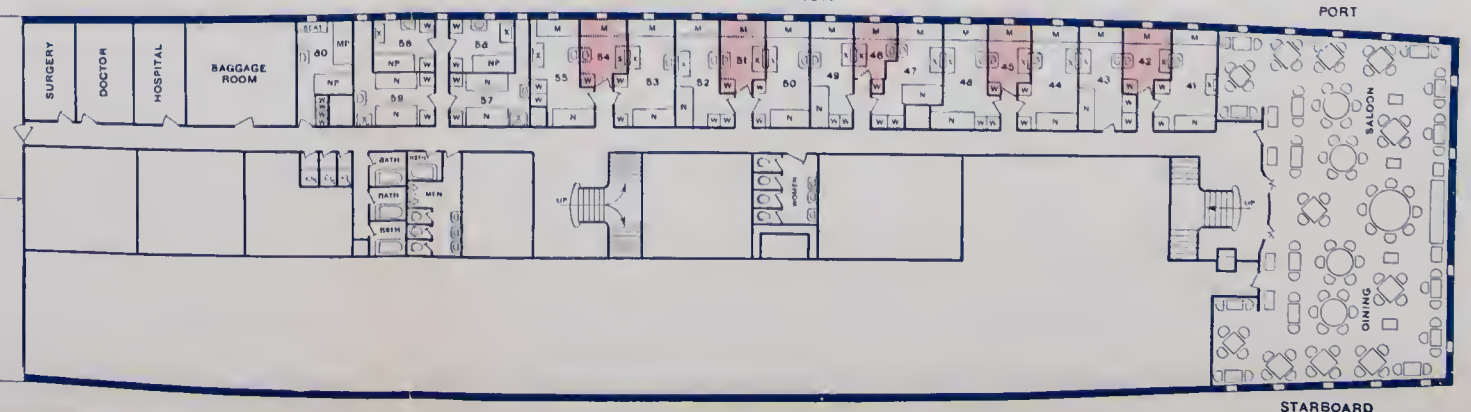
PROMENADE "A" DECK



CABIN "B" DECK



SALOON "C" DECK



15 Day Cruise \$168⁰⁰

JAMAICA-COLOMBIA - PANAMA CANAL ZONE
BARRANQUILLA & CARTAGENA

FIFTEEN glorious days and nights cruising the Caribbean—all you have to do is board a snowy American Flag liner of the Great White Fleet. The ship is strictly first class. All staterooms face the sea. The dining saloon accommodates all passengers at a single sitting and the cuisine is famous throughout the Americas. Decks are spacious. The public rooms commodious. The outdoor swimming pool invites you to enjoy an ideal plunge, there are sound movies, a real orchestra and many other enjoyments to insure your complete comfort.

There are two calls at resplendent Jamaica, British West Indies. In Colombia there's Cartagena with her noble pirate fortifications, and also Barranquilla, progressive city on the banks of the mighty Magdalena. And there's the ever-fascinating Panama Canal Zone, for shopping, for gaiety and for the gigantic engineering achievements that span the Isthmus.

This is a grand cruise, rich in historic lore, and both afloat and ashore you are assured of good company and good times.



CRUISE FARES, NEW YORK BACK TO NEW YORK

(Shore Excursions, Taxes and steamer chair charges not included)

SS. VERAGUA, OURIGUA, CHIRIOU, JAMAICA and TALAMANCA	Cruise Fare Per Person
"C" DECK	
Double Cabins without Private Bath	\$168.00
41, 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55	185.00
Single Cabins without Private Bath	910.00
42, 45, 48, 51, 54	
"B" DECK	
Double Cabins without Private Bath	200.00
19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 25, 24 or 26, 27 or 29, 28 or 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40	
Double Cabins with Private Tub Bath and Toilet	240.00
9, 10, 23 or 25, 24 or 26, 27 or 29, 28 or 30	260.00
Single Cabins without Private Bath	35.36
Single Cabins with Private Shower and Toilet	740.00
11, 14	
Suites	775.00
A, B (with Sitting Room)	
A, B (with Sitting Room)	665.00
Single Cabins with Private Shower and Toilet (equipped with single bed and sofa bed, but only one washbasin)	785.00
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 (see below)	(11 or 13 Persons)
For occupant of single bed	995.00
For occupant of sofa bed	940.00
	168.00

ITINERARY

NEW YORK	Noon
Lv. Wednesday	
JAMAICA	
Kingston	A.M.
Ar. Sunday	Noon
Lv. Sunday	
COLOMBIA	
Barranquilla	P.M.
Ar. Monday	Daylight
Lv. Wednesday	
PANAMA CANAL ZONE	
Cristobal	P.M.
Ar. Thursday	7 P.M.
Lv. Friday	
JAMAICA	
Kingston	A.M.
Ar. Sunday	3 P.M.
Lv. Sunday	
NEW YORK	
Ar. Thursday	A.M.

SHORE EXCURSIONS OPTIONAL

BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA—Automobile ride around city, visiting interesting points. Luncheon at the Hotel del Prado, with the afternoon free for shopping or bathing in the hotel's beautiful new pool. (Adults \$3.50, Children \$3.00.)

CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA—Tour by automobile through the city, visiting famous San Felipe Fortress, high on a mountain top built in 1608 and La Popa Monastery. Opportunity to visit Club Le Popa for souvenir shopping. (Adults or Children \$2.50.)

CRISTOBAL, CANAL ZONE—By luxurious

private cars on a personally conducted tour in and around Cristobal and Colon. Train trip to Panama City with transfer by automobile to Balboa, for luncheon at the Hotel Tivoli, Ancon, C. Z., on the Pacific side. Motor sightseeing trip around Panama City. Return to Cristobal same day by rail. Passengers will use the steamer as their hotel while in port in Cristobal without additional charge. (Adults \$11.00, Children \$7.00.)

KINGSTON, JAMAICA—Motor drive to Castleton Gardens to inspect a remarkable collection of tropical plants and flowers. Luncheon at the delightful Myrtle Bank Hotel. (Adults \$5.00, Children \$4.00.)



This is TRAVEL AMERICA YEAR!

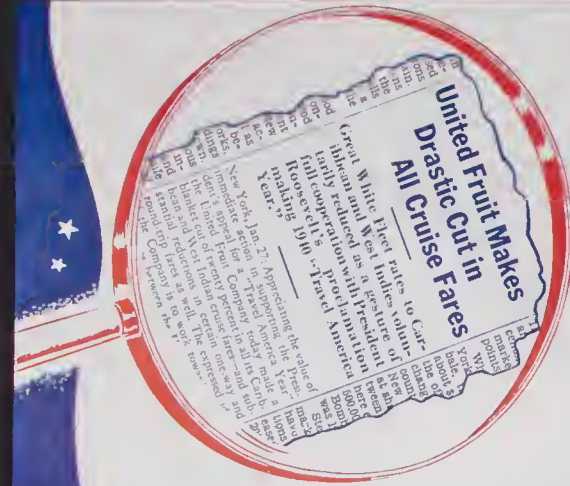
With a keen desire to further President Roosevelt's plan to improve trade and travel between the United States and the Caribbean and West Indies, the

United Fruit Company has voluntarily established new low cruise rates.

D. P. AUB, District Manager
AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY
1414 F. STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
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The rates are right—the itineraries are keyed to the average vacation: come cruise with us and play your enjoyable part in making this a truly "Travel American Year".

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A deposit of 25% is required when making reservations, the balance to be paid at least 10 days before sailing. Rates, sailing dates, steamers and itineraries subject to change without notice. Time of departure and routes of ships should be confirmed. Daylight Saving Time used at New York, commencing April 28th.

1940
Cruises from NEW YORK
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